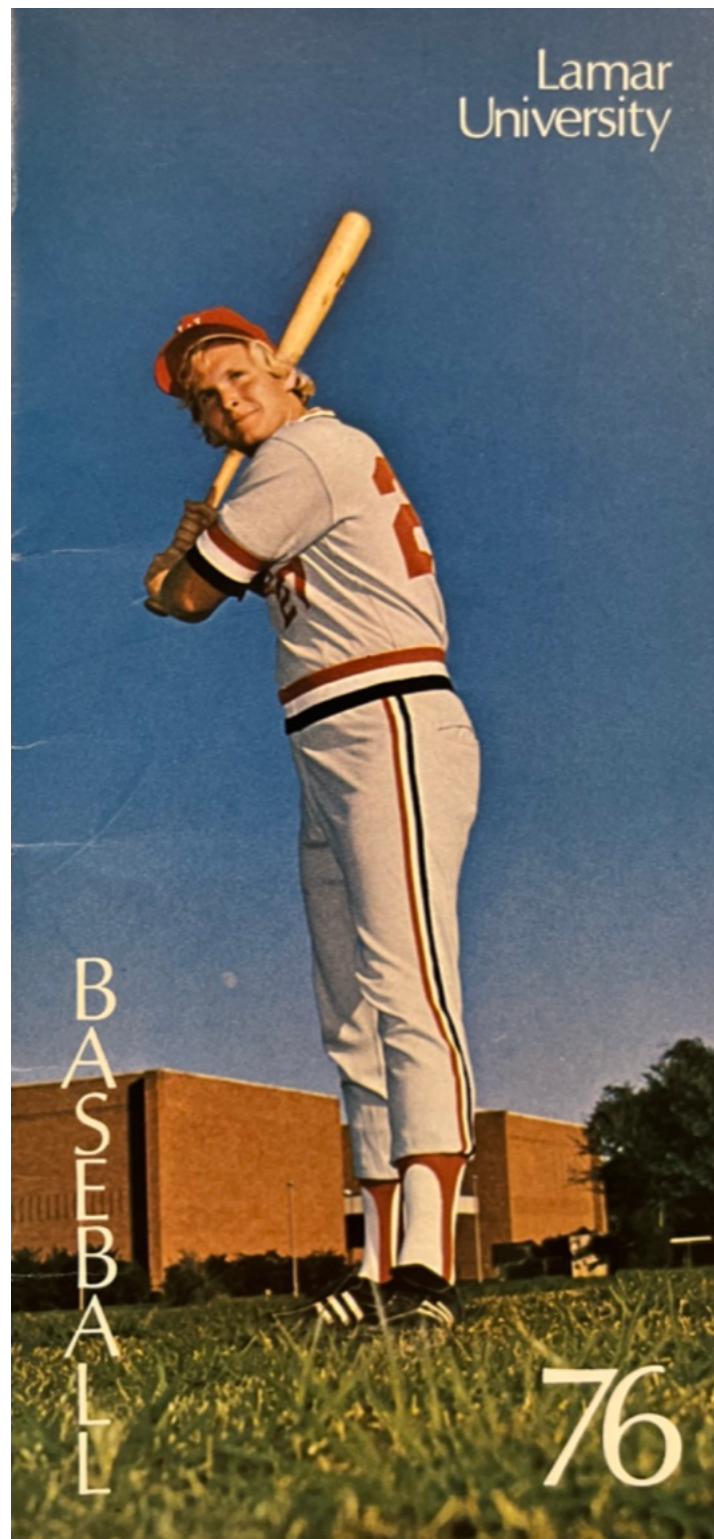

50TH ANNIVERSARY

LAMAR BASEBALL 1976



A Season To Remember

Lamar University
1976 Baseball Schedule

Overall	35-15		Conference 10-5	Home 24 - 5	Away 11 - 8	Neutral 0 - 2
February	21	(Sat)	Home	Rice University	Beaumont, Texas	W 8-2
February	28	(Sat)	Home	East Texas Baptist University	Beaumont, Texas	W 2-1
February	28	(Sat)	Home	East Texas Baptist University	Beaumont, Texas	L 0-1
March	2	(Tue)	Away	University of Houston	Houston, Texas	W 6-3
March	2	(Tue)	Away	University of Houston	Houston, Texas	L 7-9
March	5	(Fri)	Home	Baylor University	Beaumont, Texas	L 3-5
March	5	(Fri)	Home	Baylor University	Beaumont, Texas	W 5-1
March	10	(Wed)	Home	Sam Houston State University	Beaumont, Texas	W 5-0
March	10	(Wed)	Home	Sam Houston State University	Beaumont, Texas	W 6-4
March	12	(Fri)	Home	Northwestern State University	Beaumont, Texas	W 7-3
March	12	(Fri)	Home	Northwestern State University	Beaumont, Texas	W 4-2
March	14	(Sun)	Home	University of Wisconsin-Steve	Beaumont, Texas	W 13-0
March	16	(Tue)	Home	Washington University in St.	Beaumont, Texas	W 10-1
March	17	(Wed)	Home	Washington University in St.	Beaumont, Texas	W 9-3
March	17	(Wed)	Home	Washington University in St.	Beaumont, Texas	W 8-3
March	22	(Mon)	Home	University of Nebraska	Beaumont, Texas	W 7-3
March	22	(Mon)	Home	University of Nebraska	Beaumont, Texas	W 4-3
March	23	(Tue)	Home	University of Nebraska	Beaumont, Texas	W 8-0
March	23	(Tue)	Home	University of Nebraska	Beaumont, Texas	W 9-1
March	26	(Fri)	Home	University of Southern Louisiana	Beaumont, Texas	W 5-0
March	27	(Sat)	Home	University of Southern Louisiana	Beaumont, Texas	W 5-2
March	27	(Sat)	Home	University of Southern Louisiana	Beaumont, Texas	W 11-10
April	2	(Fri)	Away	McNeese State University	Lake Charles, Louisiana	L 2-7
April	3	(Sat)	Away	McNeese State University	Lake Charles, Louisiana	L 6-10
April	3	(Sat)	Away	McNeese State University	Lake Charles, Louisiana	L 5-16
April	6	(Tue)	Away	Northwestern State University	Natchitoches, Louisiana	W 8-6
April	6	(Tue)	Away	Northwestern State University	Natchitoches, Louisiana	W 12-5
April	9	(Fri)	Home	Louisiana Tech	Beaumont, Texas	W 9-2
April	10	(Sat)	Home	Louisiana Tech	Beaumont, Texas	W 10-3
April	10	(Sat)	Home	Louisiana Tech	Beaumont, Texas	W 8-3
April	13	(Tue)	Away	Centenary College (Louisiana)	Shreveport, Louisiana	W 7-2
April	13	(Tue)	Away	Centenary College (Louisiana)	Shreveport, Louisiana	W 6-2
April	14	(Wed)	Away	East Texas Baptist University	Marshall, Texas	W 8-5
April	14	(Wed)	Away	East Texas Baptist University	Marshall, Texas	W 5-4
April	23	(Fri)	Away	UT Arlington	Arlington, Texas	W 1-0
April	24	(Sat)	Away	UT Arlington	Arlington, Texas	W 9-0
April	24	(Sat)	Away	UT Arlington	Arlington, Texas	W 7-3
April	27	(Tue)	Home	Centenary College (Louisiana)	Beaumont, Texas	L 2-5
April	27	(Tue)	Home	Centenary College (Louisiana)	Beaumont, Texas	W 8-3
April	30	(Fri)	Away	Arkansas State University	Jonesboro, Arkansas	L 2-4
May	1	(Sat)	Away	Arkansas State University	Jonesboro, Arkansas	W 9-6
May	1	(Sat)	Away	Arkansas State University	Jonesboro, Arkansas	L 2-3
May	4	(Tue)	Away	Texas A&M University	College Station, Texas	L 2-7
May	4	(Tue)	Away	Texas A&M University	College Station, Texas	L 5-7
May	5	(Wed)	Home	Texas A&M University	Beaumont, Texas	L 3-5
May	5	(Wed)	Home	Texas A&M University	Beaumont, Texas	L 3-7
May	6	(Thu)	Home	Texas A&M University	Beaumont, Texas	W 6-3
May	6	(Thu)	Home	Texas A&M University	Beaumont, Texas	W 4-3
May	8	(Sat)	Neutral	University of Texas	Arlington, Texas	L 2-3
May	8	(Sat)	Neutral	University of Miami	Arlington, Texas	L 0-6

1976 Lamar Cardinal Roster

Name	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown
Ken Ahrens	C	So.	Houston
Bob Bobbitt	OF	Fr.	Beaumont
Mike Carvell	P	Fr.	Beaumont
Rufus Cook	1B	Sr.	Silsbee
Harold Flynn	CF	Jr.	Houston
John Gilligan	DH	Sr.	Bayside, NY
Brent Guidry	OF	Jr.	Port Arthur
Eddie Heppt	P	Fr.	Astoria, NY
Louie Jones	SS	So.	Freeport
Randy Kucera	SS	Sr.	Wharton
Steve Lang	P	So.	Nederland
Mike Laudig	RF	So.	Beaumont
Jarvis Lucas	P	Jr.	LaMarque
Jeff Martin	3B	Fr.	Bellmore, NY
Joe McCann	2B	Fr.	Elmhurst, NY
Mike Morgal	P	Fr.	Glen Cove, NY
Rick Nesloney	P	Jr.	Tuloso
Frank Romeo	OF	Sr.	Flushing, NY
Rudy Terrasas	OF	Jr.	Pasadena
Buddy Tibbs	P	Jr.	Port Neches-Groves
Paul Touchstone	P	Jr.	LaMarque
Bill Wearden	3B	Sr.	Wharton

Lamar Cardinals snub Rice, 8-2

BEAUMONT—Back-to-back home runs by Frank Romeo and Ken Ahrens in the fifth inning helped to propel the Lamar Cardinals to an 8-2 baseball win over Rice University Saturday, in the first game of a scheduled doubleheader.

Lamar led 1-0 after three innings, but the Owls came back in the fourth to tie it, 1-1. But the Cards' homers in the fifth and a two-run triple by Mike Laudig in

the eighth inning helped to sew up the victory for Lamar.

The second game of the doubleheader was cancelled due to poor field conditions.

Rice	000	100	010—2	6	2
Lamar	001	022	12x—8	11	2

HR—Frank Romero, Ken Ahrens.

3B—Mike Laudig.

2B—John Gilligan, Rufus Cook, Laudig.

Batteries: Rice, Jeff Hayes, Tim Holder (5), and Randy Lamtrecht.

Lamar, Rick Nesloney, Eddie Heppt (5), Buddy Tibbs (8), Jarvis Lucas (9), and Ken Ahrens.

W—Heppt. L—Hayes.

Lamar splits twin bill

BEAUMONT — Lamar University's baseball team split a doubleheader with East Texas Baptist College Saturday, winning the first game 2-1 and losing the second 1-0. The split left Lamar with a 2-1 season record.

French's Mike Laudig was responsible for both of Lamar's runs in the first game. In the bottom of the fourth, Laudig singled Billy Wearden to third. Moments later Wearden scored when Laudig stole second and the Tiger's catcher's throw went into center field. The winning run came in the bottom of the sixth. Laudig walked, stole second and went to third when the catcher threw the ball into center field and scored on a sacrifice fly by Frank Romeo.

The winning pitcher was Rick Nesloney, who

pitched four innings in relief of Steve Lang, allowed one hit and had four strikeouts.

East Texas Baptist got only two hits in the second game, but eeked out the game's only run in the top

of the six. With two out, Marlon Farr walked and raced home on a double by Bill Bunton.

Lamar's next action will be a doubleheader at the University of Houston Tuesday, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

FIRST GAME LAMAR 2, ETBC 1

ETBC	100	000	0-1	2 2 3
Lamar	000	101	x-2	5 5 3

ETBC: Bill Hanson and Randy Lewis.

Lamar: Steve Lang, Ricky Nessoney (4) and Ken Ahrens.

WP: Nesloney; LP: Hanson.

SECOND GAME ETBC 1 LAMAR 0

ETBC (3-1)	000	001	0-1	2 2 1
Lamar (2-1)	000	000	0-0	3 3 0

ETBC: Mike Morrison and Phil Pate

Lamar: Buddy Tibbs, Eddie Heppt (4), Jarvis Lucas (6) and Ken Ahrens.

2B: Bill Bunton, Rufus Cook, Billy Wearden.

WP: Morrison; LP: Heppt

LU nine sets win records

BEAUMONT — Lamar University's second extended winning streak has carried the Cardinals to a new school record.

They made in nine straight Wednesday by sweeping a pair at Marshall from East Texas Baptist, 8-5 and 5-4. Tied to an earlier 16-game skein, the Cardinals are 28-6 for the year — one victory more than the old mark set last year.

Still ahead of coach Jim Gilligan's free-swinging squad are 11 games, all but two of them on the road, including pivotal series April 23-24 at Texas-Arlington and April 30-May 1 at Arkansas State.

Lamar currently leads the Southland Conference race with a 6-3 record. McNeese State and Arkansas State are both 3-3 and locked in combat today and Friday at Jonesboro. Texas-Arlington moved to 5-4 and a contender's role last week by handing McNeese those three defeats, just as the Cowboys had shattered Lamar's first long streak.

Outfielder Frank Romeo drove in four runs with two homers and Rufus Cook added a four-bagger with one aboard as Lamar overpowered East Texas Baptist in Wednesday's opener. Rick Nesloney was credited with his sixth victory in seven decisions but he wasn't around at the finish, yielding to Jarvis Lucas when ETBC clustered three runs in the fifth.

Hard-throwing righthander Buddy Tibbs of Port Neches-Groves went the distance in the second game, scattering eight hits and weathering a three-run rally by the Baptists in the seventh.

Lamar scored all five runs in the fourth after two were out. Shortstop Randy Kucera drove in two runs with a single. After Harold Flynn doubled and Mike Laudig walked to reload the bases, third baseman Bill Wearden stroked a three-run triple.

Cards Split With Houston

3-2-76

HOUSTON — Defense paid off in a big way for the Lamar Cardinals Tuesday, enabling them to split a baseball twin-bill with the Houston Cougars.

The Redbirds won the opener 6-3 in 11 innings but dropped the second game 9-7.

Although doubles by Ken Ahrens and Billy Wearden produced Lamar's winning runs in the first game, it was



Brent Guidry

three plays in the outfield that kept UH under control.

The defensive gems were turned in by Harold Flynn, Frank Romeo and Brent Guidry.

"I've never seen three better plays by three different outfielders in one game," said Coach Jim Gilligan. "I know the Houston coaches sure were talking about the plays."

"Guidry's catch was really outstanding. We were in extra innings and the score was tied 3-3. They had runners on first and third with one away."

That's when a liner over the second baseman appeared headed for the game-winning hit in the 10th. Both runners were running hard for home when Guidry made a diving catch in shallow right field and doubled UH's Ike Haas off first base for an inning-ending, game-saving play.

In the last inning, Flynn went high off the fence in center field to rob the Cougars of a big blow. After crashing into the barrier, Flynn fell to the ground but held on to the ball.

The next man up smashed a long drive to left and Romeo made an identical play to Flynn's.

"It was one of the best games we've played — really exciting," said Gilligan.

In the top of the 11th, Flynn reached base on an error and scored what proved to be the winning run on a hit-and-run double by Ahrens to right center.

Wearden then doubled home Ahrens and tallied on John Gilligan's single.

In the second game, a bases-loaded double by Rick Schroeder highlighted a seven-run, second-inning uprising by UH that brought about the victory.

The Redbirds made it close at the finish, rallying for six runs in the final two innings. The surge included Gilligan's two-run homer in the fifth.

DEFENSE SHODDY

Coogs, Cardinals split two

By JIM STRONG
Sports Staff

Marathons are not high-tension events from spectators perspective—at least not until the very end. That's the way it was at UH's Lovette Hill Field yesterday afternoon when UH split a doubleheader with Lamar University.

The first game remained

deadlocked at 3-3 for ten, tedious innings before Lamar's hitters got to James Ingram, the fourth Cougar pitcher of the game.

It was a fielding error by UH shortstop Ralph Wheeler that opened the door for the Cardinals. Two doubles, a single, and a fielding error later, the Cougars found themselves three runs in the hole in the top of the eleventh.

Steady pitching by Lamar's Eddie Heppt, who came in as a reliever in the seventh inning, kept the Cougar bats from scoring any runs through the tenth inning.

A routine, long fly out by catcher Jerry Willeford led off the bottom of the eleventh for the Cougars. That left UH two more shots at catching the Cardinals—and shots they were. Second baseman Doug Phillips and, by that-time, center fielder Julio Acosta hit two blasts that would have been home runs, except for fence-bending catches by Lamar outfielders Harold Flynn and Frank Romeo.

Three hours and twenty minutes after it had begun, the first game was over and Lamar had taken a 6-3 victory from the Cougars. Then, it became a race between UH and the sun to get the second game into the books. NCAA rules call for four, full innings and the top of the fifth to be played before a game can be certified as official.

The second game saw the UH hitters ready for revenge. Through the first two innings, the Cougars pounded out nine runs on six hits. Then, things became very curious and the Cardinals seemed overcome with viral lethargy.

While the Cougars hustled, the Cardinals fumbled and stumbled. But, Lamar's delaying tactics were to no avail as pitcher Joe Billingsley snuffed the last Lamar batter for a 9-7 Cougar win just before the horizon got the sun.

Tuesday good for Lamar

Lamar University's busy week had Tuesday entries of a continuation of spring football practice, division of a baseball doubleheader with the University of Houston and a 5-4 tennis victory over Northeast Louisiana.

Meanwhile, the Cardinals' golf and track teams are preparing for their annual journeys to Laredo for Border Olympics competitions.

Lamar and UH extended the opening game of their twinbill in Houston to 11 innings, with Billy Wearden hitting a double to left-center for two runs and a 6-3 triumph.

In the second game, the Cougars exploded for seven runs in the bottom of the second to key a 9-7 win. Lamar scored two runs in the fourth and four in the fifth inning to narrow the gap, but the

game was called because of darkness at that point.

With the split, Lamar stands 3-2 for the season. The Cardinals host Baylor in doubleheaders Friday and Saturday.

Split set victories by sophomore Doug Rodwell in singles and doubles matches gave LU its tennis success. The Galveston netter, who plays No. 2 singles and teams with Carlos Lopez for the No. 1 doubles spot came from behind to beat Northeast's Don Murray, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4. Then, he and Lopez downed Ray Pascale and Bill Shepherd, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Lamar hosts the University of Houston Saturday.

Houston Baptist swept the women's golf tournament completed at Tyrrell Park Tuesday, winning the individual, pair and team play.



JOE McCANN

Lamar splits pair with Baylor nine

BEAUMONT — Joe McCann singled in two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning giving Lamar a 3-1 victory and a split of its doubleheader with Baylor Friday. Baylor won the first game, 5-3.

In the first game, the Cardinals committed three errors in the top of the fifth inning allowing four runs to break a 1-1 tie.

The score was tied 1-1 in the second game and had been stopped six times because of rain when McCann knocked in the winning runs.

Winning pitcher Mike Morgal needed some help in the ninth when the first two batters singled. Buddy Tibbs, former Port Neches-Groves standout, came in to relieve Morgal and allowed only an infield single. Tibbs bore down, getting the next two batters to strike out and the third to pop to the short-stop, hailing down the win for Lamar.

A doubleheader is scheduled today between the Cardinals and the Bears at Cardinal Field beginning at 1 p.m.

FIRST GAME

Baylor 5, Lamar 3

Baylor (7-5) 000 140 0-5 7 3

Lamar (3-3) 000 102 0-3 4 5

Baylor—Beene, Roberts (6) and Woolley.

Lamar—Heppf, Lucas (5) and Ahrens.

2B—Clopton, Johnson.

WP—Beene; LP—Heppf.

SECOND GAME

Lamar 3, Baylor 1

Baylor (7-6) 000 010 000-1 8 1

Lamar (4-3) 000 102 00x-3 5 1

Baylor—Schott, Brazzell (7) and Kolhurst.

Lamar—Morgal, Tibbs (9) and Ahrens.

2B—Laudig.

WP—Morgal; LP—Schott.

★ ★ ★

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — Lefthander Richard Wortham pitched a two-hitter and Charles Proskey drove in four runs in leading the defending national champion Texas Longhorns to a 12-0 Southwest Conference baseball victory over Southern Methodist University Friday.

Wortham, 3-0 for the season, was never in trouble. It was his 39th career victory at UT, one short of the school record set by Jim Gideon last season.

SMAU 000 000 00-0 2 6

Texas 070 040 10x-12 9 2

Beard, Sage 6 and Geitzen; Wortham, Steussy 8 and Duncan, Bushong 9. WP—Wortham 3-0. LP—Beard 0-2. A: 1000.

Bears in Split

BEAUMONT, Tex. (AP)—Bob Beene notched his third victory against one loss Saturday as the Baylor Bears defeated Lamar 5-3 in the opener of a non-conference baseball doubleheader. Lamar took the second game 3-1.

Shane Nolan gave Beene all the help he needed with two hits that produced three runs.

In the nightcap Mike Morgal, 1-0, scattered seven Baylor hits and Joe McCan drove in two runs in the second inning.

Lamar is now 4-3 for the year. Baylor is 7-6.

First Game

Baylor	000 140 0—5 7 3
Lamar	000 102 0—3 4 5

Beene and Woolley; Heppt, Lucas (5) and Aarens. W—Beene, 3-1. L—Heppt 2-2. A: 300.

Second Game

Baylor	000 010 000—1 8 1
Lamar	000 102 00x—3 5 1

Schott, Brazzel (7) and Kolkhurst; Morgal, Tibbs (9). W—Morgal, 1-0. L—Schott, 1-1. A: 300.

Gilligan Unhappy With Cards

By GREG WATSON
Sports Staff Writer

Jim Gilligan might make a good member of the Environmental Protection Agency if he wasn't so busy being Lamar University's baseball coach.

Gilligan is concerned with the quality of life — that of his team.

Even though his Redbirds (4-3) split a doubleheader with Baylor (7-6) Friday at Cardinal Field as they did earlier in the week with the University of Houston, Gilligan wasn't happy with the narrow 5-3 loss and 3-1 win.

His team has a chance to make amends in another doubleheader which began at 1 p.m. today at Cardinal Field.

"We didn't play well," Gilligan said. "It is one thing to play excellent defense and hit the ball good like we did the other day in Houston and split. And another to be sloppy on defense and not attack the ball as we did today."

Gilligan didn't need to review his play-by-play book or stat sheet afterward in the dugout to prove his point. In 54 at bats, the Cardinals got but nine hits. Prior to the doubleheader, they had committed 10 errors in five games. They made five in the opener, three of them in a four-run fourth inning that directly resulted in the 5-3 loss.

Although a Shane Nolan error in the outfield on a John Gilligan hit gave the Cardinals one run and a Kenay Kolkhorst

error at first allowed another in the sixth, Lamar had given the Bears too much two innings before. With two out, Rick Clopton tagged starter Eddie Heppt with a double. Mistake one: "They should never have gotten a ball over the outfielder's head with two outs" — Gilligan. Steve Macko walked. Mistake two: Heppt threw wide of second baseman Joe McCann on a pickoff and the runners advanced. Mistake three: Catcher Ken Ahrens, attempting to catch the runner leaning too far off second base after a pitch, pegged wide to shortstop Louie Jones and Clopton scored easily. Mistake four: Designated hitter Mike Johnson looped a single to left, Brent Guidry tossed home, but third baseman Billy Wearden cut off the throw and a possible play at the plate. Mistakes five and six: After Kolkhorst reached base on a hard grounder through McCann's legs, rightfielder Mike Laudig overthrew his cutoff man and the runners moved to second and third from where they scored when Nolan singled.

Lamar also missed a scoring opportunity in the first when Harold Flynn, standing on third, failed to score on a one-out grounder to the second-base side of the infield.

Fortunately for Gilligan, the Cardinals redeemed themselves to a degree in the nightcap with four hits and four runs in the sixth inning. Guidry had put the Redbirds in front with a fielders' choice grounder in the fourth only to have Leonard

Play In Baylor Twinbill

Woods bloop a run-scoring single to left the next frame.

At that point, Baylor's John Schott was outdueling Lamar freshman Mike Morgal, one hit allowed to five. That was, until Gilligan, the designated hitter, stroked a single to the right of Shanklin; Laudig doubled to deep center; and McCann slapped an opposite-field single to right for two runs. Jones singled thereafter, but Woods tossed McCann out with a one-hopper to the plate.

Baylor never really threatened until the ninth inning. Shanklin singled up the middle. Mike Wells drilled a line-drive single to center. Buddy Tibbs then came in from the bullpen. Woods greeted him with a single to left to load the bases.

However, Tibbs whiffed Luke Prestridge and Clopton swinging at low ones and Steve Macko popped up to short to conclude the contest and give Gilligan some brightness on an overcast day.

Morgal got the win in his first start of the 1976 season.

"He has been in our plans from the start," Gilligan said of the 6-3, 210-pounder from Glen Cove, N.Y. "The only reason he and Dale Arnold (Hudson freshman) haven't played is they caught the flu. Today Morgal wasn't throwing as good as he was before he got sick. He can throw harder."

"And Tibbs was really humming out there. That is what I was hoping for with the darkness. Make Baylor have trouble seeing the ball."

First Game

BAYLOR U	ab	r	h	rbi	LAMAR U	ab	r	h	rbi
Clopton, cf	4	1	1	0	Flynn, cf	4	0	2	0
Macko, 3b	2	1	0	0	Ahrens, c	4	0	0	0
Johnson, dh	3	2	3	1	Cook, 1b	3	0	0	0
Kolkhorst, 1b	2	1	0	0	Wearden, 3b	3	1	1	0
Nolan, rf	4	0	2	3	Gilligan, dh	3	1	1	0
Shanklin, ss	2	0	1	0	Laudig, rf	4	1	1	0
Wells, 2b	3	0	0	0	Guidry, lf	3	0	0	1
Woods, lf	3	0	0	0	McCann, 2b	3	0	0	0
Wooly, c	3	0	0	0	L. Jones, ss	3	0	0	0
Beene, p	0	0	0	0	Heppt, p	0	0	0	0
Roberts, p	0	0	0	0	Lucas, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	26	5	7	4	Totals	26	3	4	2

Baylor.....	000	140	0—5	7	3
Lamar.....	000	102	0—3	4	5

E — Kolkhorst, Nolan, Wells, Ahrens, McCann, Jones, Heppt; DP — Lamar 2; 2b Clopton, Johnson; S — Kolkhorst, M. Johnson, LOB — Baylor 6, Lamar 5; SB — Woods, Gilligan, Flynn (2)

	IP	H	R	ER
Beene, W (3-1)	5	2	1	1
Roberts	2	2	2	0
Heppt L (2-2)	4 ²	6	5	2
Lucas	2 ¹	1	0	0

Second Game

LAMAR U	ab	r	h	rbi	BAYLOR	ab	r	h	rbi
Flynn, cf	4	0	0	0	Clopton, cf	4	0	1	0
Ahrens, c	3	1	0	0	Macko, 3b	4	0	0	0
Wearden, 3b	3	0	1	0	Johnson, dh	4	0	0	0
Gilligan, dh	4	1	1	0	Kolkhorst, c	3	0	1	0
Laudig, rf	4	1	1	0	Nolan, rf	4	0	1	0
Guidry, lf	3	0	0	1	Shanklin, ss	4	1	2	0
McCann, 2b	2	0	1	2	Wells, 2b	2	0	1	0
Cook, 1b	3	0	1	0	Woods, lf	3	0	2	1
Kucera, ss	2	0	0	0	Prestige, 1b	4	0	0	0
Morgal, p	0	0	0	0	Schott, p	0	0	0	0
Tibbs, p	0	0	0	0	Brazill, p	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	5	5	3	Totals	33	1	1	1

Baylor.....	000	010	000—1	8	1
Lamar.....	000	102	000—3	5	1

E — Shanklin, Kucera; 2b Laudig; S Wells; LOB Baylor 10, Lamar 5; SB Kolkhorst, Ahrens, Guidry, Kucera, McCann.

	IP	H	R	ER
Schott (L)	6	5	3	2
Brazzell	2	0	0	0
Morgal (W) (1-0)	8	7	1	1
Tibbs	1	1	0	0

★★★

Cardinal Nine To Host Bearkats

3-9-76

Lamar's pitching staff has taken an upturn, and the rise can be attributed to a flock of talented newcomers.

Although it's early, the Cardinals' earned run average of 2.50 after seven games is about half of what it was a year ago.

They'll try to keep this mark intact Wednesday at 1 p.m. in a twinbill with Sam Houston State's Bearkats at Cardinal Field.

Although Jarvis Lucas, a junior righthander, has yet to allow a run out of the bullpen, in five outings, the Birds' four wins have come from a trio of new faces.

Rick Nesloney, a junior college transfer, is 1-0, the same as Mike Morgal, a freshman lefthander from Glen Cove, N. Y.

Eddie Heppt, a 6-2, 185-pound southpaw from Astoria, N. Y., is 2-2.

Heppt has worked the most innings, 15, and owns a 1.80 ERA. Morgal carries a 1.59 mark and Nesloney a 1.11 after two weeks of play.

A surprise has been Lucas. "It's been nice having Jarvis down in the bullpen," said Coach Jim Gilligan. "We've had a couple of guys come up with sore arms and some who haven't come through for us. Lucas has been a big boon to our staff."

Five Lamar regulars are hitting over .300, led by freshman second baseman Joe McCann at .350.

Third baseman Billy Wearden has hit in all seven games and is batting .348 followed by John Gilligan and Mike Laudig, both at .333, and Harold Flynn (.320).

McCann and Flynn pace the Cards in runs-batted-in with five each.

Cardinals take pair from Sam Houston

BEAUMONT — What is more shocking than a Sam Houston State team with a 2-12 record is a Lamar baseball team making a fast start.

Coach Jim Gilligan's Cardinals swept a double-header from the perennially powerful Bearkats here Wednesday, 5-0 and 6-4, and even the garrulous New Yorker appeared slightly amazed.

"We're such notoriously slow starters," said Gilligan. "Now we've won three straight, we're 6-3 and I've got a feeling we are on our way."

The Cardinals had plenty going their way Wednesday, from a route-going pitching job by freshman Mike Morgal and a triple play in the opener to a stout relief job by Jarvis Lucas and a three-bagger by Harold Flynn as they came from behind in the second game.

Morgal, a 6-3 lefty whom Gilligan imported from Glen Cove, N.Y., stopped Sam Houston on five hits.

When he appeared in deep trouble in the fifth inning, his teammates bailed him out with a triple play.

Billy Wearden started it by fielding Brad Wheless' grounder to third and tossing to second baseman Joe McCann for a forceout. McCann's relay to first baseman Rufus Cook erased Wheless and a runner who attempted to score from second on the play was cut down at home by Cook's throw to catcher Ken Ahrens.

The instant relief delayed Lucas' appearance on the mound until the fourth inning of the second game. "What a trooper he is," Gilligan exclaimed. "I had him up and down so many times during the first game. Then he comes in for us when he need him the most and he throws nothing but strikes."

Lucas, a sidearming righthander, hasn't allowed a run — earned or otherwise — in 12 innings this spring. Wednesday's

stint was his longest so far and his only decision in six relief jobs.

"It's tough to march out of the bullpen and into trouble but he's the type to cope with it," Gilligan says.

Lamar trailed by 4-0 when Lucas took over with none out in the fourth inning. He struck out three, walked one and allowed only two hits while the Cardinals played catch-up.

The Cardinals finally overtook and passed Sam Houston in the sixth with a three-run rally. Ahrens walked and a three-base error on Randy Kucera's grounder let in a run to tie the score at 4-4.

Flynn, a junior college transfer with tremendous speed, then tripled to centerfield. Brent Guidry, former Port Arthur Jefferson outfielder who had two RBI's in the first game, lofted a sacrifice fly to center to easily score Flynn.

The Cardinals split twin bills with East Texas Baptist, Houston and Baylor before putting it all together against Sam Houston.

"It was fun and we'll try it again Friday," quipped Gilligan. He sends the Cardinals against Northeastern Louisiana in a doubleheader which starts here at 1 p.m.

— JOHN DEVILLIER

First game

Lamar 5, Sam Houston 0
S. Houston (2-11) 000 000 0-052
Lamar (5-3) 201 011 x-580
Sam Houston — B. Smith, Romero (5)
and Wheless; Lamar — Morgal and Ahrens.
WP — Morgal; LP — B. Smith.

Second game

Lamar 6, Sam Houston 4
S. Houston (2-12) 200 200 0-461
Lamar (4-3) 000 213 x-463
Sam Houston — Riddick, Tedford (4), Hoke (5), Griffith (6) and Graham;
Lamar — Heppt, Tibbs (1), Lucas (4) and Ahrens.
3B — Flynn; WP — Lucas; LP — Hoke.

LU grabs doubleheader

3-10-76

By JOE HEILING
Sports Editor

The Lamar Cardinals have been able to beat everyone once. Wednesday, they found someone they could defeat twice — Sam Houston State's Bearkats.

Lefty Mike Morgal twirled a five-hitter and grabbed the opener 5-0 with the aid of a triple play, and six runs in the final three innings enabled the Redbirds to pull out the second game 6-4.

After beating Rice in the season opener, the Cards split three consecutive doubleheaders before fetching the pair from the Kats.

They're now 6-3 on the season and the winners of three straight. Sam Houston State dropped to 2-12.

"We got some real fine pitching," said Coach Jim Gilligan. "Morgal threw real well in the first game and Jarvis Lucas did an outstanding job coming out of the bullpen in the second game.

"What I really liked, though, was the way my kids

battled. This is the fightingest group of guys I've seen. I like 'em. They showed a lot of fire to come back the way they did."

The Cardinals trailed Melvin Riddick 4-0 after three-and-a-half innings of the second game. Then they rallied for two in the fourth, one in the fifth and three in the sixth while Lucas was blanking the Bearkats on two hits the closing four innings.

"Lucas is a trooper," smiled Gilligan. "He came in and shut them down and that's what we needed. We pulled a couple of boners, but we kept the pressure on them and they were looking for a way to lose it . . . and they did."

The Cardinals launched their winning effort with a pair of runs in the fourth after two were out.

Rufus Cook singled and Joe McCann walked before Ken Ahrens' single to right broke Riddick's shutout spell. Pinch-hitter Rudy Terrasas walked to load the bases. Reliever Mark Tedford then walked

Harold Flynn on four pitches, forcing in the second run.

In the fifth, Mike Laudig's hit off pitcher John Hoke's glove scored Billy Wearden, who had walked, from third to put LU within a run.

The Kats caved in the next inning. A walk to Ahrens and a three-base error on Louie Jones' sacrifice bunt tied the game. Then Flynn tripled off reliever Mark Griffith to make it 5-4 before scoring on Brent Guidry's sacrifice fly.

Lucas notched his first win and has yet to yield an earned run in sixth appearances. He walked one and struck out three.

Morgal upped his record to 2-0 with his first collegiate shutout. The rookie from Glen Cove, N.Y., faced one big trouble spot — the fifth.

Leading 3-0, he saw the Bearkats put runners on first and second base before Brad Wheelles bounced a ball to Wearden at third base.

He fired to McCann at second for one out and doubled up the batter with a peg to

Cook at first base. Cook then spotted Bill Cheatham trying to score from third base and cut him down with a throw to the plate to complete a rare triple play.

A walk and stolen base by Flynn, his fifth this season, Guidry's single and John Gilligan's sacrifice fly presented Morgal with a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Singles by Jones and Flynn and Guidry's infield out made it 3-0 in the third. The Cards tallied in the fifth on Gilligan's double after a single by Wearden and wrapped it up with a sixth-inning run on Cook's single and an error.

Wearden hit safely in each game to run his string to nine games.

First Game

Sam Houston.....	000 000 0—0	5 2
Lamar.....	201 011 x—5	8 0

B. Smith, Romero (5) and Wheelles; Morgal and Ahrens. WP — Morgal (2-0). LP — B. Smith (0-1).

Second Game

Sam Houston.....	200 200 0—4	6 1
Lamar.....	000 213 x—6	6 3

Riddick, Tedford (4), Hoke (5), Griffith (6) and Graham; Heppt, Tibbs (1), Lucas (4) and Ahrens. WP — Lucas (1-0). LP — Hoke (0-1).

Cards sweep Demons 7-3, 4-2

3-12-76

The Lamar Cardinal baseballers have taken wing with a five-game winning streak.

A sweep of Friday's twinbill with Northwest Louisiana 7-3 and 4-2 at Cardinal Field has assured the Redbirds of a fast start on the young season.

"Our pitching has looked real good," said Coach Jim Gilligan, "and it's nice to have this winning streak. We're playing good ball right now."

The Birds got a route-going six-hitter from Steve Lang, the sophomore righthander

from Nederland, in the opener while Eddie Heppt and Jarvis Lucas exorcized the Demons in the second game in a combined four-hitter.

Jarvis notched his first save of the campaign, posting the final out with runners on first and third to bring Heppt his third win in five decisions.

Lang is 1-0 after getting a big lift from a four-run, first-inning uprising in the first game.

The Cards were never headed after leadoff singles by Harold Flynn and Brent

Guidry ahead of walks to Billy Wearden and John Gilligan, forcing in the first run.

Rufus Cook singled for two more tallies and Mike Laudig collected the other RBI on an infield out.

A pair of Demon errors and hits by Laudig and Joe McCann ran the score to 6-3 in the bottom of the third and Lamar got its final run on Flynn's first homer of the year.

Lang blanked the Demons over the final four innings. He walked one and struck out

three. Flynn, Guidry and Cook banded out two hits each.

In the second game, the Redbirds rallied from an 0-2 deficit, built on fourth-inning homers by Mickey Hartman and Bud Oberle, to extend their win skein.

They tied it up at 2-all in the last of the fourth on leadoff doubles by Guidry and Wearden and Cook's RBI single. In the fifth, McCann walked, stole second and scored the go-ahead run on Flynn's two-out single.

The Lumen wrapped

singles by Wearden and Frank Romeo around an infield out for an insurance run in the sixth.

Heppt allowed all four hits, and walked one while whiffing five.

FIRST GAME

NW Louisiana	102	000	0-3	6	2
Lamar	402	100	x-7	8	3

Weaver and Cockfield; Lang and Ahrens. WP — Lang (1-0). LP — Weaver (0-1). HR — Lamar, Flynn.

SECOND GAME

NW Louisiana	000	200	0-2	4	1
Lamar	000	211	x-4	8	1

Cole and Courville; Heppt, Lucas (7) and Ahrens. WP — Heppt (3-2). LP — Cole (1-2). HR — Louisiana, Hartman, Oberle.

Lamar on baseball winning streak

3-12-76

BEAUMONT — Lamar's baseball team swept a doubleheader from Northwestern Louisiana, 7-3 and 4-2, Friday to extend its season record to 8-3, the last five wins being in a row.

Northwestern Louisiana, which has a 2-8 season record, jumped out to an early lead in the first game. Leftfielder Danny Goode reached first on an error by Cardinal shortstop, Louie Jones and raced home on a triple by Curtis Ardoin.

Lamar stormed back, scoring four runs in their half of the inning. Harold Flynn and Jefferson graduate Brent Guidry beat out bunt singles and Billy Wearden walked to load the bases. John Gilligan, the designated hitter, walked to score Flynn and Cardinal first baseman, Rufus Cook, followed with a two-run single. Gilligan scored moments later when Mike Laudig hit into a fielder's choice.

Lamar scored two runs in the third inning and Flynn hit a leadoff home run in the fourth. Steve Land went the distance and got the win for the Cardinals.

In the second game, Mickey Hartman and Bud Oberle homered to give the Demons a 2-0 lead in the fourth inning. Lamar tied the score in their half of the inning on a triple by Billy Wearden, a double by Guidry and a single by Cook.

Joe McCann scored the winning run for the Cardinals when he walked, stole second and advanced to third on a throwing error. He then came home on a single by Flynn. Lamar added an insurance run in the sixth on a single by Frank Romeo.

Eddie Heppt got the win for Lamar but had relief help from Jarvis Lucas in the seventh to nail the win down.

Lamar is scheduled to play a doubleheader Sunday against Wisconsin-Steven's Point at Cardinal Field beginning at 1 p.m.



BRENT GUIDRY

Lamar blasts W-SP, 13-0

BEAUMONT — Lamar's baseball team unloaded for 12 hits to turn back Wisconsin-Stevens Point 13-0 Monday.

The Cardinals, now 9-3 for the season, utilized 29 players in the contest which was all the weather would allow the two teams to salvage from a pair of doubleheaders scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

Six LU pitchers limited the visitors to three hits, combining for a shutout in the nine-inning affair.

Harold Flynn got three hits for the Redbirds, while John Gilligan connected for the big blast of the day, a two-run home run in the fifth inning.

Lamar 13, Wisconsin-Stevens Pt. 0

Wisc. (0-3) 000 000 000— 0 3 2

Lamar (9-3) 410 031 40x—13 12 0

W-SP—Goesch, Ryan (2), Waterhouse (7), Meyers (8) and Jones; Lamar — Touchstone, Carvell (4), Tibbs (5), Maxwell (7), Berry (8), Allen (9) and Ahrens.

2B—Flynn

HR—Gilligan

WP—Tibbs, LP—Goesch

Gilligan's bat ignites Lamar

BEAUMONT—Lamar University baseball coach Jim Gilligan couldn't have been much happier about the manner his Redbirds disposed of Washington University of St. Louis Wednesday.

Not only did LU establish a new school record for most consecutive victories with its 9-3 triumph, it accomplished that feat behind the booming bat of Gilligan's brother John.

Gilligan clubbed a three-run first inning homer and finished the day with four hits and five RBI. With the help of Gilligan's homer the Redbirds broke out to a 5-0 first inning lead and padded that to 9-0 before the visitors managed to score.

Rick Nesloney was the winning pitcher, with two inning of relief from Jarvis Lucas. The two teamed for a five-hitter. Lamar's ninth straight win upped its season record to 12-3.

Lamar nine ties mark

BEAUMONT — Lamar took the field against Washington University of St. Louis this afternoon looking to set the school's all-time record for consecutive victories.

Jim Gilligan's Redbirds tied the mark of eight straight Tuesday by sweeping a doubleheader from the Bears, 10-1 and 8-3. The twin triumphs elevated LU to 11-3 on the season.

Billy Wearden and Ken Ahrens belted homers to back Mike Morgal's five-hit pitcher in the opener, then Steve Lang came back with a six-hitter in the nightcap. The Redbirds made it easy for Lang by scoring four times in the first.

Cards capture 2 from Bears

3-16-76

By JOE HEILING
Sports Editor

The Lamar Cardinals ran their winning streak to eight straight games Tuesday and if it all had a familiar ring to Coach Jim Gilligan, there was a reason.

"That tied the school record," said Gilligan after 10-1 and 8-3 triumphs over Washington University of St. Louis at Cardinal Field.

"We took eight-in-a-row in 1968 and I was a player on that team. I was a pitcher."

The Redbirds are 11-3 now for their Yankee mentor and they play the Bears again today at 1 p.m. in a single contest. Rick Nesloney is the scheduled LU starter.

Lamar banged out eight hits to support Mike Morgal's five-hit chunking in the opener and gathered 14 in the second game as Steve Lang (2-0) fetched the win with late relief

from Jarvis Lucas.

Outfielder Harold Flynn and third baseman Billy Wearden were the biggest swingers for the Birds in the twinbill.

Flynn stole three bases in the opener — matching a school mark — and five for the day to go with four hits in five official plate appearances. He is LU's leading hitter with a .426 average — 20 for 44.

Wearden was quite active, too. He and catcher Ken Ahrens poled first-game home runs and Wearden finished with a 3-for-6 day and five runs-batted-in — three of them in the second game.

The veteran Cardinal now is 17-for-43, a .395 pace, and tops the club in RBI with 11.

Flynn has pilfered 10 bases in as many attempts this season and was 3-for-4 after hitting safely in his lone of-

Continued on Page 2B

Lamar captures twinbill

Continued from Page 1B

ficial at-bat in the opener.

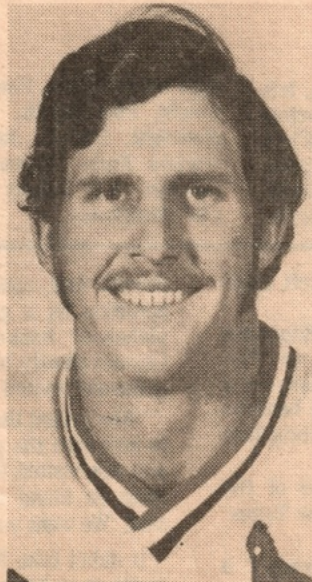
"They're both sticking the ball real good," said Gilligan. "Our team is hitting the ball solidly. I felt like we played two good games today and that we are starting to get in gear."

It was Washington's coming-out party for the season. The Bears fell behind in the first inning of each game and never saw daylight the whole day.

Morgal (3-0) came within a wild pickoff throw of his second consecutive shutout. He walked three and struck out eight in six innings before David Smith finished up.

The Bears' long afternoon began with Flynn legging out a hit to deep short and stealing his first base in the first inning. Rufus Cook's two-out single scored Flynn.

Lamar made it 3-0 in the third when Flynn walked and Wearden lined his homer over the left field fence. In the fourth, Joe McCann walked and Ahrens, swinging as a lefty, poled a drive over the wall in



Harold Flynn

right. An unearned run followed on a pair of errors.

The Redbirds tallied again in the fifth and closed it out with three in the sixth, all unearned.

A four-run outburst sealed Washington's fate in the first

inning of the second game. Again, it was Flynn starting things off with a single and stolen base. He was caught off second, but Brent Guidry and Wearden smashed doubles for one run. A walk to John Gilligan and a single by Cook loaded the bases for Mike Laudig's sacrifice fly to left. McCann then singled for two runs.

There was no stopping LU, thereafter, although Washington rallied in the third — after another Card run — on Mitch Margo's two-run single.

The Cards put up a run in the fourth on Flynn's single and stolen base and Louie Jones plated a pair of teammates with a single in the fifth.

FIRST GAME

Washington (St. L.) . . . 000 001 0-1 5 5
Lamar 102 313 x-10 8 1

King, Ortals (5) and Margo; Morgal, D. Smith (7) and Ahrens. WP — Morgal (3-0). LP — King (0-1). HR — Lamar, Wearden (1), Ahrens (2).

SECOND GAME

Washington (St. L.) . . . 002 001 0-3 6 1
Lamar 410 120 x-8 14 0

Mather, Meeks (6) and Margo; Lang, Lucas (7) and Ahrens, Schuelke (6). WP — Lang (2-0). LP — Mather (0-1).

Nebraska falls 7-3, 4-3...

Lamar ups win streak to 11 with sweep

3-22-76



Lamar's John Gilligan slides safely into third during the first game of the Cardinals' doubleheader with Nebraska Monday.

By JOE HEILING
Sports Editor

This past summer, Jim Gilligan was proudly introducing one of his new baseball recruits around the Lamar University campus.

"He is some kind of prospect," Gilligan said of a tall lefthander out of Glen Cove, N. Y. named Mike Morgal. "He's got a lot of future."

For Lamar and Morgal, the future is now.

Morgal captured his fourth straight decision for the Cardinals with a 7-3 upheaval of Nebraska in the opener of a twinbill Monday. In the second game, Rick Nesloney, unbeaten in three decisions, made it an LU sweep 4-3.

The pair of triumphs extended the Redbirds' victory string to 11 consecutive games and gave them a 14-3 season record. The Cornhuskers are 2-8, and they'll go at it again today in a 1 p. m. doubleheader.

Nebraska shut down the Birds' hitting somewhat, allowing them six hits in the first game and five in the afterpiece. But errors — the Cornhuskers committed seven for the day — and some timely LU hits

produced the sweep.

That and the pitching of Morgal and Nesloney, a righthanded transfer from Ranger Junior College.

"We were real pleased with both pitchers," said Gilligan. "I'm pleased with our staff. Our pitching depth has got to help us."

Morgal has emerged as the staff's leader. And he's only a freshman.

"He was 13-0 his senior year in high school," explained Gilligan, "and he was striking out two men an inning. He only walked 13 all season — and that was for over 200 innings. I knew he was going to be something special."

Morgal has been. Along with his 4-0 record, his earned run average is right around 1.00. His strikeouts haven't

flourished but he is a more accomplished pitcher.

"When Mike was pitching for his high school team," said Gilligan, "he knew that if he didn't strike the batter out, he'd probably get on base."

"Now he knows he has a stout defense behind him. He's satisfied with watching the guys on the team throw people out."

Nebraska was ahead after scoring twice in the third inning of the opener on a single by Larry Winum, Doug Miller's triple and a hit by Dick Anderson.

The Cardinals scored an

unearned run in the first and went ahead 3-2 in the bottom of the third on a walk, an error, John Gilligan's triple and a single by Rufus Cook.

In the fifth, a walk to Billy Wearden, Cook's triple and a delayed double steal after a walk to Joe McCann produced two more runs.

Nebraska tallied once in the sixth, but the LUMen put it away with Wearden's two-run triple.

Although he allowed 10 hits, Morgal didn't walk a man and struck out six.

The second game was much closer. The Birds got away to

a 4-1 lead, but Nebraska put the tying run on second base before Nesloney whiffed Anderson to end the contest.

It was Nesloney's eighth strikeout. He walked only two.

Lamar marked up a first-inning run as Harold Flynn reached base on an error and stole his 12th base of the campaign. Brent Guidry's single got him home.

The Cornhuskers tied it in the second when Paul Haas singled and stole second. When Ken Ahrens' throw went into the outfield, Haas scored.

A walk to Guidry, Wearden's single and a pair of throwing errors on one play allowed LU to move out front 2-1 in the third. Two in the fourth clinched it as Ahrens' double and Flynn's single plated the runs.

★ ★ ★

FIRST GAME

Nebraska 002 001 0—3 10 2
Lamar 102 022 x—7 6 1

Bushrer, Yingling (5) and Henne;
Morgal and Ahrens. W—Morgal (4-0) L—
Bushrer (0-1).

★ ★ ★

SECOND GAME

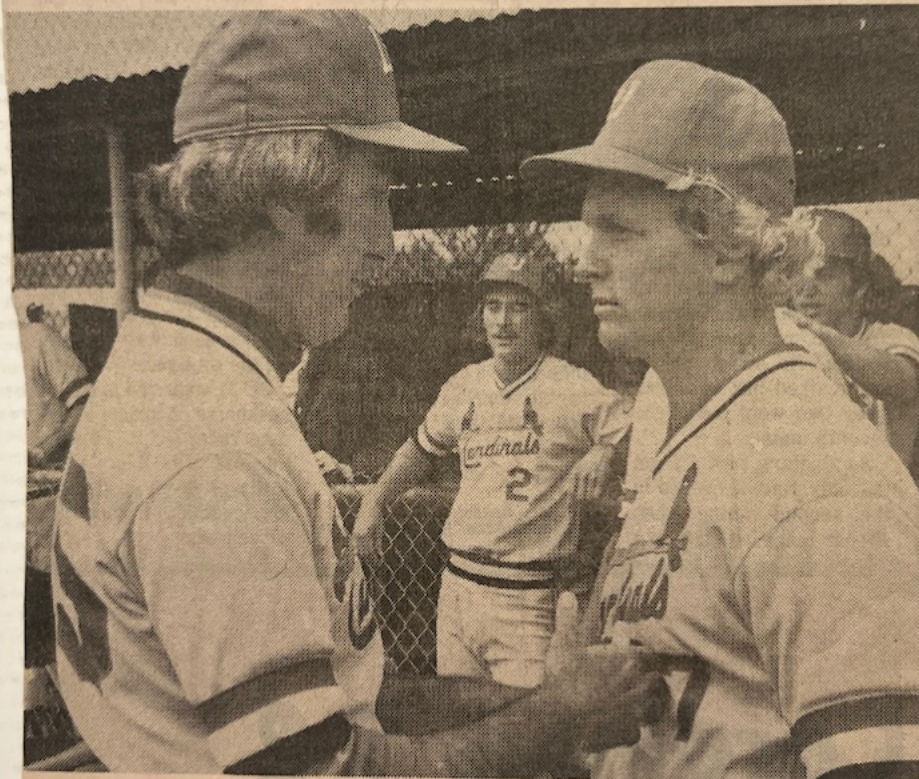
Nebraska 010 001 1—3 7 5
Lamar 101 200 x—4 5 1

Benish, Balenhorst (4) and Mittenberger, Henne (4); Nesloney and Ahrens.
W—Nesloney (3-0) L—Benish (0-2).

Sweeps series from Huskers 4-0 .

3-23-76

LU nine clouts



Lamar baseball coach Jim Gilligan, left, gives instructions to Redbird slugger Billy Wearden

By JOE HEILING
Sports Editor

Pitching is the name of the game for Lamar's baseball Cardinals.

They got it again in bushels Tuesday, prevailing by the comfortable margins of 8-0 and 9-1 for a sweep of the four-game series with the University of Nebraska.

Rookie Eddie Heppt thwarted the Cornhuskers on three hits in the opener and four pitchers combined on a five-hitter in the second game as the Redbirds extended their winning streak to 13 consecutive games.

Coach Jim Gilligan's Lumen are now 16-3 as they prepare for the Southland Conference opener against Southwestern Louisiana here Friday and Saturday.

In the shucking of the Cornhuskers, Lamar pitchers allowed seven runs in 28 innings of play.

"I can't say enough good things about our pitching," said Gilligan, who went ahead and said it any way. "It's been outstanding.

"Heppt did a great job in

Nebraska twice 8-0, 9-1

the first game. But I'm not surprised. He's been throwing good all year. Of his two losses, one of them probably was my fault... the one to East Texas Baptist.

"I was hollering from the dugout for Eddie to challenge the hitter. The batter thought I was hollering for a fastball and, as it turned out, that's what Eddie threw. The batter was ready for it and the guy drilled a double that cost Heppt the ball game."

Nebraska didn't come close to any such luck in the series wrapup.

Heppt, a freshman lefty from Astoria, N. Y., didn't permit the first hit until the fifth in the opener. Steve McManaman's single broke

his spell. The other Husker hits were Norm Glismann's double in the sixth and Phil King's single in the seventh. All three hits came after two were down in the inning.

The Cards rushed Nebraska for four runs in the first. A walk, Brent Guidry's single and an infield out, set the stage for run-scoring singles by John Gilligan and Rufus Cook and Mike Laudig's two-run triple.

Three walks and an error made it 5-0 in the second before the Birds marked up two more in the fifth. Hits by Joe Galanti — he and Laudig collected two each — and Rudy Terrasas preceded a bases-loading walk to Rick Molnar.

Consecutive walks to Randy Kucera and Frank Romeo forced across two tallies. Molnar's single knocked in the final run in the sixth.

In the second game, Cook drove across three runs while Gilligan and Billy Wearden were gathering two RBI apiece to lend a hand to Paul Touchstone's first LU victory.

Buddy Tibbs worked the first three innings and Touchstone turned in two scoreless frames before Jarvis Lucas posted the final five outs in relief of Steve Lang.

The Redbirds scored in the first on a single and stolen base (his 14th) by Harold Flynn in front of Gilligan's single. Nebraska matched that one on Larry Winum's single

in the second.

Lamar moved on top for keeps in the third with an unearned run. Bobby Thomas erred on Guidry's grounder and he stole third before scoring on Gilligan's sacrifice fly. It was Gilligan's 16th RBI of the year.

Lamar tallied twice in the fifth on hits by Wearden and Cook.

★ ★ ★

FIRST GAME

Nebraska.....	000	000	0-0	3	2
Lamar.....	410	021	x-8	9	1

Nagel, Batthenhorst (1), Shield (2), Healey (6) and Henne; Heppt (4-2) and Ahrens, Molnar (5); LP—Nagel (0-2).

SECOND GAME

Nebraska.....	010	000	0-1	5	4
Lamar.....	101	025	x-9	9	0

Costello, Healey (6) and Miltenberger; Tibbs, Touchstone (4), Lang (6), Lucas (6) and Ahrens, WP—Touchstone (1-0), LP—Costello (0-2).

Cardinals at UT-A

The Southland Conference baseball derby, balanced as never before, hits the penultimate stage Friday and Saturday.

Front-running Lamar University (6-3 and 28-6) travels to Texas-Atlington (5-4 and 25-17) for a critical three games, while Arkansas State, tied with UTA for the runnerup position, is at Southwestern Louisiana (4-5).

Even last-place Louisiana Tech, the SLC representative in the NCAA playoffs two years running, still is alive on its 3-6 record, hosting 4-5 McNeese State this weekend.

With one more round to go after the upcoming series, Tech's Bob Brasher clings to the full-season hitting lead on a .361 average, chased by Lamar's Harold Flynn and Billy Wearden, both at .350.

Freshman lefthander Ray Fontenot of McNeese State moved to the pitching lead on a gaudy 0.70 earned run average after finally toiling enough to qualify on the basis of innings worked. Texas-Arlington's Bruce Marshall remains with a leading 10 victories, while the best won-lost mark belongs to Lamar's Mike Morgal, now 8-1.

LU maintains conference lead

ARLINGTON—Lamar's baseball team retained its lead in the Southland Conference race by taking a doubleheader from Texas-Arlington 1-0, 9-0 Friday at Arlington.

Paul Touchstone hurled a four-hitter in the opener to pick up his sixth win of the year with no setbacks. Touchstone struck out eight and walked only one. Mike Laudig knocked in the game's only run on a double.

In the nightcap, Rick Nesloney also hurled a four-hit shutout for the Cardinals. Nesloney fanned nine and walked one in getting his seventh win of the year with one loss.

The sweep of the doubleheader gave the Cardinals a 8-3 record in conference play and UTA dropped to a 5-6 mark. The wins also extended the Cardinals win streak to eleven games

FIRST GAME

Lamar 1, UT-A 0

Lamar	000	001	000—1	7	0
UT-A	000	000	000—0	4	0

Lamar: Touchstone and Ahrens.

UT-A: Knowles and Malinke.

2B—Laudig.

SECOND GAME

Lamar 9, UT-A 0

Lamar	103	001	000—9	11	1
UT-A	000	000	000—0	4	1

Lamar: Nesloney and Ahrens.

UT-A: Marshall, Powell (8), and Malinke.



Tibbs

Cardinal nine nearing playoffs

Lamar University baseball coach Jim Gilligan says he wasn't playing a hunch when he went to the bullpen Sunday for hard-throwing Buddy Tibbs.

Whatever it was, the maneuver sealed a 7-3 victory over Texas-Arlington and put the streaking Cardinals one win away from the Southland Conference championship and an invitation to the NCAA regional playoffs.

"It was no hunch at all," Gilligan said of his selection of Tibbs. "I was positive he was going to go in there and throw strikes. That's what we needed and that's what he delivered."

Tibbs, taking over for rookie sensation Mike Morgal when the Mavericks were trying to mount a rally in the fifth inning, allowed only three hits in four and one-third innings of shutout relief.

Lamar's victory completed a three-game sweep at Arlington and left the Cardinals with a 9-3 record. They face second-place Arkansas State (7-5) at Jonesboro Friday and Saturday and Gilligan admits he likes the odds.

"I'd feel good if we had to go there and win all three," said Gilligan. Lamar rang up 16 straight victories early in the year, lost three to McNeese State at the outset of the SLC race, but now has a 12-game streak alive.

In Sunday's game, Lamar gouged four Maverick pitchers for 14 hits including four by Rufus Cook, whose total included a triple. Joe McCann got three hits while Billy Wearden, John Gilligan

and Harold Flynn picked up two apiece.

The Cardinals also stole a season high of six bases, Flynn and Randy Kucera each getting two.

Morgal was ahead 5-1 when two hits and two walks revived the Mavericks. Gilligan usually summons Jarvis Lucas in such a crisis. He has appeared in 15 games and has a 1.11 ERA.

"I like to call on Jarvis for the short reliefs," Gilligan explained. "Tibbs is the kind you go to in the middle innings. He's been looking sharp. In fact on our road swing last week he gave us some of our better pitching."

Tibbs' victory was his first against a loss and the string of scoreless innings did wonders for what had been a 7.11 ERA.

"The ERA doesn't mean much in Buddy's case," said Gilligan. "He had a few bad innings early and he really hasn't worked enough to overcome the arithmetic. What he has done is to come in and keep the ball at their knees, and that's what we want when we're ahead."

Before their series at Jonesboro, the Cardinals (31-6) make a final home appearance Tuesday at 1 p.m. in a doubleheader against Centenary.

Lamar 7, UT-Arlington 3

Lamar (31-6, 9-3) 102 022 000—7 14 1

UTA (25-20, 5-7) 000 120 000—3 7 2

Lamar — Morgal, Tibbs (5) and Ahrens;

UTA — Whisonant, Meyers (3), White (6),

Neinast (6) and Linke.

3B — Cook, Laudig

WP — Tobbs. LP — Whisonant.

Park, downed Geannie Mueller of Houston Madison, 6-3, 6-3, in the finals of the girls' B singles.

winning streak that started against Hebert in last week's Beaumont Coaches tournament. The Indians will go into their district opener with

rolled over South Park, 7-2, to gain its spot in the finals opposite PNG. The Pirates had to wait out a 30-minute fifth inning rain delay in the title

South Park (3-4) 900.912.9-2.4.2 SF
Vider (9-3) 214.000.2-7.4.0 OY
SP: Tallarita, Dixon (5), Frederick and Morris.
V: Simmons and Nations.
WP: Simmons. LP: Tallarita.

Sizzling LU tests 'Huskers'

BEAUMONT — Ball-hawking, base-thieving centerfielder Harold Flynn and the heady play of rookie second sacker Joe McCann has spurred the Lamar University Cardinals to their finest start since 1968.

Lamar, which hosts the University of Nebraska in 1 p.m. double-headers Monday and Tuesday, is on a record-setting nine-game winning skein and the Cardinals are 12-3 overall. The 1968 outfit won eight straight at the outset and built a 14-2 record.

Flynn has cured two of coach Jim Gilligan's chief problems of the past and McCann has filled some big shoes in areas of the most concern in the pre-season outlook.

The Cardinals have never had an outfielder or base runner such as Flynn, a 6-2, 190-pound junior from Houston Stephen F. Austin via way of Alvin Junior College.

In 15 contests, the cardinals' leadoff hitter is boasting a team-leading .420 average with nine runs batted in and has already set a Lamar single season record with 11 stolen bases in 11 attempts. He also tops the club with 16 runs.

"Having a guy like Harold Flynn is a luxury," declares Gilligan. "You'd have to play him if he hit just .200 because of his fielding ability.

"He waits for balls that most outfielders try to catch on the run. Flynn has unlimited potential and if he keeps coming he could make the majors. He runs faster than the majority of major league outfielders and his hitting is just plain gravy."

Flynn, a righty, has been clocked in 3.4 seconds to first base from the plate. Many of his 13 hits in the past eight games have been infield safeties or bunts. He also has two doubles, a triple and a home run.

McCann has stepped right in for Bobby Bradshaw, who led

the 1975 outfit with a .335 average and was a superb fielder at the keystone sack.

Despite some corrections in his hitting style, the native of Elmhurst, N. Y. is currently hitting at a .343 clip and has delivered a bunch of heads-up plays.

"I've never had a freshman with Joe's coolness and intelligence," says Gilligan. "He's only a rookie but he's a take charge guy and one of our leaders.

"He's extremely intelligent but he doesn't let his intelligence get in his way. He listens to what the staff has to offer. Al (Lamar's batting instructor Al Vincent) changed his hitting style and Joe was smart enough to realize it would help him although he was uncomfortable at first."

McCann, an engineering student, was headed to Yale University when Gilligan persuaded him to come to Lamar last summer.

Flynn and McCann aren't the only heroes on a club sporting six .300 plus hitters in the regular lineup and a pitching staff with a misery 1.58 earned run mark.

Veteran all-Southland Conference third sacker Billy Wearden owns a lusty .392 average and 12 ribbies; senior John Gilligan is batting .333 with a term leading 13 RBIs and three home runs as the designated hitters; senior first baseman Rufus Cook has a .357 mark; and sophomore outfielder Mike Laudig is ripping at a .351 pace.

Freshman southpaw Mike Morgal is unbeaten in three decisions and has a brilliant 0.74 ERA for 24 one third frames. Other top hurles are junior righty Rick Nessoney (2-0 and 0.60), rookie lefty Eddie Heppt (3-2 and 2.02), sophomore Steve Lang (2-0 and 3.38) and relief ace Jarvis Lucas (1-0 and 0.00).

OPEN DAILY 9-9, CLOSED SUNDAY

MON., TUES., WED.



HAROLD FLYNN



JOE McCANN

LU nine still streaking

BEAUMONT — Lamar University kept up its torrid pace with a doubleheader triumph over the University of Nebraska to boost its winning streak to 11 Friday at Cardinal Field.

Mike Morgal pushed his record to 4-0 in the first game as Lamar registered a 7-3 win and Rick Nesloney upped his to 3-0 with a 4-3 triumph in the second game. John Gilligan, Rufus Cook and Billy Wearden all tripled for the Cards in the opener.

A two-run double by Ken Ahrens iced the second game in the fourth after Lamar had taken a 2-1 lead

in the third.

Lamar (14-3) and Nebraska (2-8) will hook up in another twinbill today beginning at 1 p.m. at Cardinal Field.

First Game

Lamar 7, Nebraska 3

Nebraska (2-7)	002	001	0-3	10 2
Lamar (13-3)	102	022	x-7	6 1

Buehrer, Yingling (5) and Henne; Morgal and Ahrens.

3B—Miller, Gilligan, Cook, Wearden.

WR—Morgal (4-0).

LP—Buehrer (0-1).

Second Game

Lamar 4, Nebraska 3

Nebraska (2-8)	010	001	1-375
Lamar (14-3)	101	200	x-451

Benish, Batenhorst (4) and Millenberger, Henne (6); Nesloney and Ahrens.

2B—Ahrens.

WP—Nesloney (3-0).

Benish (0-2).

Lamar looking past 13-game win streak

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

BEAUMONT — A 13-game winning streak has done nothing to soften Jim Gilligan's lean and hungry look.

The Lamar University baseball coach, whose Cardinals swept two doubleheaders from Nebraska to go 16-3 for the season, today spoke intensely about the challenge he expects Friday and Saturday from Southwestern Louisiana.

"I'd like to trade some of our nonconference success for three in a row over those guys," he said. "They beat us two out of three last year in a series that was the difference in the Southland Conference."

Lamar finished in a regular-season tie with Louisiana Tech and lost in the playoffs, but Gilligan insists USL is the team to beat this time — and not merely because they happen to be here Friday for a 1 p.m. doubleheader and Saturday for a single 1 p.m. game.

"Basically, they're the same team which whipped us last year. They've brought in junior college pitchers who can help them," he said. Gilligan isn't surprised the Cajuns are 7-13 going into conference play. "They've

been on the road against teams like Florida State, Jacksonville and Southern Alabama. It's no disgrace to lose to teams like those."

Lamar made it four straight over Nebraska here Tuesday by beating the Cornhuskers by 8-0 and 9-1.

Freshman Eddie Heppt, a lefthander from Astoria, N. Y., won the opener on a three-hitter and might have pitched himself into the rotation for the series against the Cajuns.

"We'll go with Rick Nesloney (3-0) and Mike Morgal (4-0) in Friday's games," Gilligan said. "It could be Heppt in the Saturday game. Or Buddy Tibbs or Steve Lang. It depends on who seems to have the edge."

Tibbs left Tuesday's second game against Nebraska with a 2-1 lead because Gilligan wanted to get a look at JC transfer Paul Touchstone. Before it was over, Lang worked two innings and relief ace Jarvis Lucas retired the last five batters.

"He's been in tighter spots before," said Gilligan of Jarvis' performance. "I put him in because I want him to stay ready, to be able to go out there in clutch situations." The sidearming Lucas has allowed only one unearned

run in 17 innings.

Outfielder Mike Laudig cracked a two-run triple in the first game after designated hitter John Gilligan and Rufus Cook came up with RBI singles in the first inning.

Cook knocked in three runs in the second game and Gilligan and Billy Wearden produced two apiece. Gilligan now has 16 RBI's.

Outfielder Harold Flynn stole two bases Tuesday, improving on what already is a school record. The fleet Flynn, a 6-2, 190-pounder from Alvin Junior College, has stolen 14 bases and has yet to be thrown out.

"Flynn's base running is sensational," his coach said. "The stolen base record is pretty remarkable but what the book doesn't show is how fast he moves from second to home."

And that, like playing Southwestern Louisiana, is what counts the most.

First game

Lamar 8, Nebraska 0

Nebraska 000 000 0-032
Lamar 410 021 x-891

Nebraska — Nagel, Battenhorst (1),
Shield (2), Healey (6) and Henne;
Lamar — Heppt and Ahrens, Molnar (5).
WP — Heppt, LP — Nagel

Second game

Lamar 9, Nebraska 1

Nebraska 010 000 0-154
Lamar 101 025 x-990

Nebraska — Costello, Healey (6) and
Miltenberger; Lamar — Tibbs,
Touchstone (4), Lang (6), Lucas (6) and
Ahrens.
WP — Touchstone, LP — Costello

Redbirds' Nesloney



Lamar's Mike Laudig completes a successful steal of second as the ball flies past USL shortstop Gerald Grand

Staff photo by Mike O'Meara

3-hits Cajuns 5-0

Lamar wins 14th straight game . . .

By JOE HEILING
Sports Editor

The Lamar Cardinals put it all together — hitting, pitching and defense — Friday and thumped Southwestern Louisiana 5-0 in the Southland Conference opener.

Righthander Rick Nesloney fired a three-hitter while John Gilligan and Mike Laudig accounted for two runs each to spearhead the Redbirds' 14th consecutive victory. They're now 17-3 on the season.

Gilligan's fourth homer of the campaign triggered a three-run second inning and the Lumen reeled off four double plays to help Nesloney over the rough spots.

They'll play two today at Cardinal Field, beginning at 1 p.m., as Mike Morgal (4-0) and Eddie Heppt (4-2) do the flinging for Lamar.

Nesloney, 4-0, overcame a rocky start to register his first shutout and LU's fourth this year.

He wiggled out of a bases-loaded jam — two walks and an error put Cajuns everywhere — by picking Mike Sheffield off third base with a 3-and-2 count on the batter, Joe Hart, in the second.

A double play made things a bit easier in the third. Nesloney walked five in the first four innings and threw a total of 52 pitches in the first three.

"He was a bit nervous at first," Catcher Ken Ahrens said of his batterymate, Nesloney. "Once he got in the groove, he was all right. Everybody was a bit nervous at first. They had beaten us two games up

there in the fall, but we were convinced we were the better team."

Nesloney, a lanky righthander, walked six and struck out four in completing his second game in four starting assignments.

"His fastball was really moving," said Ahrens, "and he was relying on his slider. Rick has the best slider on the team and when his fastball is moving, like it was today, it's the best fastball on the team."

The Redbirds launched their scoring with a bang — Gilligan's homer over the left field fence in the second. They didn't stop there, either.

Rufus Cook followed with a triple off Ed Mock, the USL starter, and Laudig singled to make it 2-0. Laudig took second on an infield out and

came on around on Jeff Martin's pinch double.

In the third, the Lumen wrapped up their scoring with two additional runs, chasing Mock in the process.

Walks to Brent Guidry and Billy Wearden were the beginning of the end for the USL pitcher. Gilligan drilled a long single off the left field fence to send Guidry home. An infield out by Laudig scored Wearden with the final run.

Nesloney and USL reliefer Richard Urban matched shutout innings the rest of the way.

The USL Cajuns now are 7-14 for the season.

★★★

USL 000 000 000 — 0 3 2
Lamar 032 000 00x — 5 5 1

Mock, Urban (3) and Sheffield; Nesloney (4-0) and Ahrens. LP — Mock (2-4). HR — Lamar, Gilligan (4).

LU wins pair, keeps skein alive

BEAUMONT — Lamar kept its streak alive and mounted a ramrod thrust into Southland Conference action Saturday as the Cardinals swept their doubleheader over the University of Southwestern Louisiana, 5-2 and 11-10.

The Redbirds took a 3-2 lead in the first game, then iced it when a double by Billy Wearden scored Randy Kucera and Brent Guidry with two outs in the fifth inning.

The second game got off to an auspicious start for both teams, as USL scored three runs in the first inning, then Lamar retaliated with a whopping

seven runs in that frame.

But USL caught up, and then surged ahead to a 10-7 lead, and suddenly the Cards were playing catch-up ball in the sixth inning. A run in the sixth and one in the seventh helped matters for LU, but by the time the eighth inning rolled around, USL nursed a 10-9 lead.

Frank Romeo led off that frame with a single for the Cards, then Wearden followed with another single. A first baseman's error enabled the two to wind up on second and third.

The rest was easy: John Gilligan's sacrifice fly enabled Romeo to come home, then Rufus Cook's sacrifice plated Rudy Terrasus, who pinch-ran for Wearden.

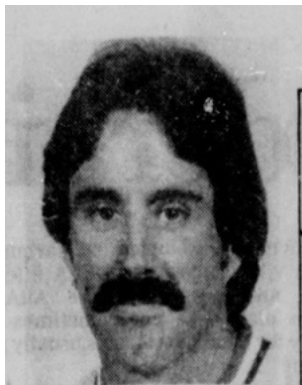
The wins pushed Lamar to 16 straight wins and a 3-0 record in Southland Conference action. Tuesday, the LU nine take on the University of Houston in a doubleheader at Cardinal Field, starting at 1 p.m.

Lamar 5, USL 2

USL 101 000 0-2 7 2
Lamar (10-3) 120 020 x-5 6 2
USL: Jeff Garren and Tom Bernard
LU: Morgel and Ahrens
2B: Graham, Wearden, Kucera
3B: Jones
HR: Jeansonne
WP: Morgan. LP: Garren

Lamar 11, USL 10

USL 230 310 000-10 11 3
Lamar (19-3) 700 001 12x-11 11 2
USL: Jones, Urban (1), Conwell (8) and Bernard
LU: Tibbs, Heppt (2), Touchstone (4), Lucas (9) and Ahrens
2B: Hart, Jeansonne, LeGuenec, Ahrens
HR: Jeansonne (2), Gilligan
WP: Touchstone. LP: Conwell.



JOHN GILLIGAN

LU claims SLC win

BEAUMONT — John Gilligan knocked in two runs with a home run and a single to lead Lamar to a 5-0 victory over the University of Southwestern Louisiana in their Southland Conference baseball opener.

Gilligan, the designated hitter, got the Cardinals rolling with a leadoff homer over the left field fence in the second inning. First baseman Rufus Cook followed with a triple and right fielder Mike Laudig singled Cook home with a shot to right field. Jeff Martin, pinch hitting for shortstop Louie Jones, cracked a double down the first base line to plate Laudig.

After walks to Thomas Jefferson graduate Brent Guidry and Billy Wearden, Gilligan drove Guidry home with a single run in the third inning. Wearden scored when Laudig hit into a fielder's choice.

Struggling with his control much of the game, Rick Nesloney hurled a three-hitter to pick up his fourth win of the year with no losses. Nesloney walked six, hit a batter and fanned six.

The Cardinals, winners of 14 straight, are 17-3 on the season, while USL is 7-14.

Lamar and USL are scheduled to play a doubleheader today at Cardinal field beginning at 1 p.m.

Lamar 5, USL 0

	R	H	E
USL (7-14)	000	000	000-0 3 2
Lamar (17-3)	032	000	00x-5 5 1

USL—Mock, Urban (3) and Sheffield
Lamar — Nesloney and Ahrens

2B—Martin

3B—Cook

HR—Gilligan

WP—Nesloney; LP—Mock

Lamar finds right formula

BEAUMONT — All it takes to build a winning streak is a robust batting average and a microscopic ERA, in combination.

Like Lamar University's, for example.

The Cardinals, who open Southland Conference competition today against Southwestern Louisiana, are batting .306 as a team and the pitching staff has yielded only 1.65 earned runs per game.

"Statistics don't mean as much to me as the fact we've been playing aggressive, heads-up baseball," said coach Jim Gilligan. "Everyone has been bearing down, attacking the ball and going after anything they've hit off our pitchers."

A 13-game winning streak is no mirage, but neither is USL, which last year beat the Cardinals two-out-of-three and forced them to accept a first place tie with Louisiana Tech.

A doubleheader was scheduled today but Gilligan said the weather persuaded him to shift the schedule so there'll be only a single game today at 1 p.m. "We'll play two Saturday starting at 1 p.m.," he said.

Six Lamar regulars are batting .317 or better going into the conference opener. Soph Mike Laudig of Beaumont French is batting .386 and his output includes four doubles and three triples.

Billy Wearden, the 1975 all-SLC third baseman, owns a .382 average and is followed closely by outfielder Harold Flynn (.381) and first baseman Rufus Cook (.370).

Designated hitter John Gilligan has three home runs, a .321 average and 16 RBI's.

Lamar's starting rotation includes Mike Morgal (4-0 and a 1.44 ERA), Rick Nesloney (3-0), Ed Heppt (4-2) and Buddy Tibbs (0-1). Reliever Jarvis Lucas hasn't given up an earned run — and only one unearned run — in 17½ innings.

Lamar cancels twinbill with UH

BEAUMONT — Lamar's baseball doubleheader with the University of Houston, which was to have begun at 1 p.m. today at Cardinal Field, was called off because of wet grounds.

Due to conference scheduling, the two games will not be rescheduled.

The Cardinals, 19-3 for the season — including 16 wins in a row — and 3-0 inside the Southland Conference, visit McNeese for a doubleheader Friday and a single game on Saturday.

'Pokes pop LU win skein

4-2-76
LAKE CHARLES, La.— Home runs by Philip Smith, a grand slam blow, and Bill Simon led McNeese State to a sweep of a Southland Conference twinbill over Lamar University here Friday afternoon.

A grand-slam homer by Smith in the sixth inning powered the 'Pokes to a 7-2 victory over the Cardinals and a two-run blow by Simon in the sixth helped the Cowboys to a 10-6 triumph in the nightcap.

The sweep by the Cowboys snapped a 16-game winning streak by the Cardinals and also knocked the Lamar squad out of first place in the league standings. The

Redbirds had entered the doubleheader undefeated in conference play but had its record drop to 3-2. Overall, they're 19-15.

McNeese took the conference lead with the

to give the Cards an early 4-1 lead.

Rick Nesloney, the losing pitcher in the first game, dropped his win slate to 4-1, while Mike Morgai, the second-game loser, drops to 5-1.

SLC baseball

sweep and now carry a 2-0 league mark and an 18-8 overall slate.

In the first game, Billy Wearden and Ken Ahrens popped homers and John Gilligan belted a double.

The second contest also had a grand slammer as spunky Frank Romeo rapped a base-cleaner for Lamar in the second inning

FIRST GAME

McNeese 7, Lamar 2

Lamar (19-4, 3-1) 100 000 1-2 7 2
McNeese (17-8, 1-0) 000 205 x-7 6 1

Lamar: Nesloney and Ahrens

McNeese: Croker and Stelly

2B—Gilligan, K. Guthrie, Paulette

HR—Wearden, Ahrens, Smith

WP—Croker (3-2), LP—Nesloney (4-1)

SECOND GAME

McNeese 10, Lamar 6

Lamar (19-5, 3-2) 041 000 100-6 8 4

McNeese (18-8, 2-0) 110 232 10x-10 10 4

Lamar: Morgai, Lucas (6) and Ahrens

McNeese: Fontenot, Herpin (4) and

Stelly

2B—Smith (2)

3B—Paulette

HR—Romeo, Simon

WP—Herpin (3-1), LP—Morgai (5-1)

McNeese rips Lamar again

LAKE CHARLES, La.— Lamar University slipped a little farther back in its bid for the Southland Conference title Saturday as McNeese blasted the Cardinals, 16-5.

Lamar, which had entered the three-game series with the Cowboys on a 16-game winning streak and holding onto top spot in the SLC standings, left it with a 3-3 mark and a 19-6 overall mark.

The nine-inning contest had rocked along with Lamar holding a 2-1 lead through six innings of play and then the Cardinals cut loose for a couple of runs in the top of the seventh to take a 4-1 advantage.

In the bottom of the seventh, however, McNeese struck back with a school record 12 runs to push into the lead. A grand-slam homer by Cowboy centerfielder Russ Conner and a two-run blast by rightfielder Philip Smith led the McNeese attack. 4-3-76

McNeese 16, Lamar 5

Lamar (19-6, 3-3) 020 000 210-5 6 3

McNeese (19-8, 3-0) 100 000 12 3 x-

Lamar: Touchstone, Lucas (7), Heppt

, Nesloney (7), Tibbs (7), and Ahrens

Richardson, Herpin (7) and Stelly

2B—B Guthrie

4R—Connor, Smith

WP—Herpin (4-1), LP—Touchstone

LU takes doubleheader

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Lamar recovered from the jolt of losing a three-game Southland Conference series to McNeese last weekend by collecting 22 hits to win a doubleheader from Northwestern Louisiana, 8-6 and 12-5, Tuesday.

Frank Romeo's seventh inning double with the bases loaded broke a 6-6 tie after the Cardinals had come from behind on the Demons.

In the second game, the Redbirds jumped out to a 5-0 lead, then surrendered three tallies before exploding for six more markers in the fourth. Six

walks and home runs by Billy Wearden and Rudy Terrasas made the difference.

Lamar is now 22-6 for the season.

4-6-76

First game

Lamar 8, Northwest La. 6

Lamar	030 010 4-8 11 3
NW La.	021 300 0-6 8 0

Lamar — Heppt, Nesoloney (3), Touchstone (6) and Ahrens; NW La. — Cole and Coxfield.

2B—Wearden

HR—Wearden, Terrasas

WP—Touchstone, LP—Cole

Second game

Lamar 12, Northwest La. 5

Lamar	500 600 1-12 11 2
NW La.	201 200 0-5 8 1

Lamar — Tibbs, Morgan (3), Lucas (6) and Ahrens; NW La. — Lewis, Woods (1), Meyers (2), Clark (4) and Coxfield.

2B—Romeo, Flynn

WP—Morgan, LP—Lewis

LU takes doubleheader

Lamar University might have another long winning streak cranked up. At least, Coach Jim Gilligan hopes so. His Cardinals swept a doubleheader from defending Southland Conference Champion Louisiana Tech 9-2, 10-3 to stay in pursuit of league leading McNeese State.

"We were really swinging the stick today," said Gilligan, whose Cardinals now have won four in a row, including today's pair within the conference, since losing a three-game series last weekend against McNeese.

"I figure if we can win eight of our last nine games we have a chance to catch them," said Gilligan. "But I won't be satisfied unless we win nine of nine."

"We're the type of team capable of a winning streak. We showed that before the conference race started. That first loss to McNeese, coming after we won sixteen in a row took the momentum away, but I saw it building back up against Northwestern."

Paul Touchstone and Mike Morgal were tagged in the first inning, but survived shaky starts and went the distance to pick up the victories for Lamar.

Bob Brasher, the conference's leading hitter, tagged Touchstone for a two-run double in the first inning to give Tech a 2-0 lead. But Touchstone shutout the Bulldogs the rest of the game to pick up his fourth win of the year with no losses. Touchstone struck out four and walked three.

Lamar countered with three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Bill Wearden stroked a two-run double and came home on a single by John Gilligan.

Mike Laudig singled home a run in the second inning and the Cardinals added three more in the fourth. After Joe McCann and Ken Ahrens reached base on errors by the Tech pitcher, Ronald Martin, and shortstop, Johnny Walker, Cardinal shortstop Randy Kucera tripled them home and scored moments later on a wild pitch by Martin.

Louie Jones replaced Kucera in the fifth inning and stroked a two-run double to finish the Cardinal scoring.

Touchstone's performance has probably won him a place in Lamar's rotation along side Morgal and Rick Nesloney (6-1).

"He'll win games for us," said Gilligan of Touchstone, a junior college transfer drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers. "He's not very tall (5-10) and he has a slow and easy motion which is deceiving, but he makes the ball hop."

Touchstone fits into the Lamar scheme in place of Eddie Heppt, who was a starter until he developed a sore arm.

Tech jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning of the second game. Phil Willingham tripled home a run and scored on a single by Brasher when the shortstop bobbled the cutoff throw.

Lamar tied the score in their half of the frame on Wearden's run-scoring single and a sacrifice fly by Gilligan and went ahead for keeps in the second inning. McCann walked and Ahrens followed with a double. Kucera laid down a sacrifice bunt to move the runners up. McCann scored on a wild pitch by Clay Smith.

Harold Flynn struck out, but Clay issued walks to load the bases and then hit Gilligan to force a run across. Rufus Cook cracked a three-run double into left-center field alley to give the Cardinals a 7-2 lead.

Tech could manage only one more run off Morgal, while the Cardinals tallied one run in the third and two in the fifth inning. Morgal walked three batters and struck out only one as he went the route to extend his record to 6-1.

Rick Nesloney will hurl for the Cardinals today in their final game against Tech at 1 p.m. at Cardinal Field.



BILLY WEARDEN

FIRST GAME

Lamar 9, Louisiana Tech 2

LA Tech (11-16, 3-4) 200 000 0-2 4 3
Lamar (22-4, 4-3) 310 320 x-9 10 0

Louisiana Tech—Martin, Slay (6) and Bailey

Lamar—Touchstone and Ahrens

2B—Willingham, Brasher, Laudig, Gilligan, Kucera, Jones

3B—Kucera

WP—Touchstone (4-0), LP—Martin (3-6)

SECOND GAME

Lamar 10, Louisiana Tech 3

LA Tech (11-17, 3-5) 201 000 000-3 9 3
Lamar (23-5, 5-3) 251 020 00x-10 8 1

Louisiana Tech—Smith, Slay (2), Lewis (8) and Bailey

Lamar—Morgal and Ahrens

2B—Willingham, Gilligan, Cook, Ahrens

3B—Flynn

WP—Morgal (7-1), LP—Smith (2-2)

LU takes doubleheader

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Lamar recovered from the jolt of losing a three-game Southland Conference series to McNeese last weekend by collecting 22 hits to win a doubleheader from Northwestern Louisiana, 8-6 and 12-5, Tuesday.

Frank Romeo's seventh inning double with the bases loaded broke a 6-6 tie after the Cardinals had come from behind on the Demons.

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walks and home runs by Billy Wearden and Rudy Terrasas made the difference.

Lamar is now 22-6 for the season.

First game

Lamar 8, Northwest La. 6

Lamar	030 010 4—8 11 3
NW La.	021 300 0—6 8 0

Lamar — Heppt, Nesoloney (3), Touchstone (6) and Ahrens; NW La. — Cole and Coxfield.

2B—Wearden

HR—Wearden, Terrasas

WP—Touchstone, LP—Cole

Second game

Lamar 12, Northwest La. 5

Lamar	500 600 1—12 11 2
NW La.	201 200 0—5 8 1

Lamar — Tibbs, Morgan (3), Lucas (6) and Ahrens; NW La. — Lewis, Woods (1), Meyers (2), Clark (4) and Coxfield.

2B—Romeo, Flynn

WP—Morgan, LP—Lewis

SECRET

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—

100

Lamar 8, Louisiana Tech 3

				R	H	E
Louisiana Tech (11-18, 3-6)	000	003	000-3	10	6	
Lamar (23-6, 6-3)	110	001	23x-8	9	1	
Louisiana Tech — Swenson, Rocket (8) and Bailey						
Lamar — Nesloney and Ahrens						
2B — Willingham, Flynn, Romeo						
HR — Johnson						
WP — Nessoney (5-1); LP — Swenson (4-1)						

LU-Tech stakes lower

BEAUMONT — A year ago Louisiana Tech and Lamar University were battling for the Southland Conference championship.

They're matched in a three-game series here today and Saturday and at stake this time is mere survival.

"We played ourselves into trouble last week," said Lamar designated hitter John Gilligan, "but it's not over for us yet. This is a big series for us and if we can sweep it we'll be in good shape."

McNeese State beat Lamar three in a row after the Cardinals had won 16 straight games. Now Lamar and Tech — 10-5 in their 1975 stalemate — are 3-3 behind the pacesetting Cowboys.

A doubleheader today and a single game Saturday at 1 p.m. could provide the cure to what was ailing the Cardinals last week, Gilligan believes.

"We just didn't play near our potential and McNeese did," said the senior slugger and brother to Lamar coach Jim Gilligan.

LU rebounds against Gents

BEAUMONT — The second game of a doubleheader here Tuesday was a showpiece for the four pitchers Lamar University figures will blaze a trail to the NCAA playoffs.

There 12-game winning streak snapped 5-2 by Centenary in the opener, the Cardinals got a combined five-hitter from Jim Nesloney, Mike Morgan, Buddy Tibbs and Paul Touchstone for a 9-2 victory.

Lamar is 32-7 for the season and 9-3 within the Southland Conference. The Redbirds need just one victory in a three-game series Friday and Saturday at Jonesboro to win the title and advance to the NCAA regionals at Arlington. Second-place Arkansas State (7-5) will have to sweep the final three to head off Lamar.

Tibbs earned his third decision in a week by working two innings against Centenary. He was the chief beneficiary of a six-run Cardinal rally, ignited when swift outfielder Harold Flynn circled the bases when a routine single got through Gent centerfielder Rick Evans.

Flynn stole his 26th base in 27 attempts earlier in the day.

"They caught us looking ahead," coach Jim Gilligan commented on Centenary's win, spun around Jerry Peyton's five-hitter.

Gilligan then proceeded to do some looking himself. Nesloney and Morgal, who'll probably start in Friday's twinner against Arkansas State, worked three innings and turned a 2-1 lead over to Tibbs. Touchstone pitched the final two innings to tune his arm for Saturday's final conference game.

Cards, Gents split

By **JOE HEILING**
Sports Editor

When the Lamar Cardinals finally erupted Tuesday, it was a lulu.

Held in check for 11 innings, the Baseball Birds bashed the Centenary Gents for six runs in the fifth inning of the second game to shatter a 2-2 tie and capture an 8-3 decision.

Centenary grabbed the opener 5-2 on Jerry Peyton's five-hitter to snap the Cards' latest winning streak at 12 games.

The split of the twinbill hikes Lamar's record to 32-7 and sends the Lumen into this weekend's final series at Arkansas State needing to grab one of the three games for the Southland Conference championship.

It looked like a Redbird runaway the very first inning of the first game.

Hits by Harold Flynn and Mike Laudig and a hit batsman loaded the bases with nobody out. But they managed only one run on Rufus Cook's groundout and Peyton, a righthander, didn't give them the time of day, thereafter.

In the second game, Lamar tallied twice in the first inning on Flynn's walk and stolen base — he now has 26 thefts in 27 attempts — plus Billy Wearden's RBI double and a bases-filled walk to Joe McCann.

Centenary pulled even, though, on solo runs in the fourth and fifth before the LU explosion in the last of the fifth which

saw six of the 10 Birds batting score while rapping out seven base hits.

"It was just a case of looking ahead," said Coach Jim Gilligan of LU's performance up to that point. "We just weren't playing ball the first game.

"We got the one-run lead and I guess they thought it would be enough. I wanted a better tuneup for our final conference series (at Jonesboro, Ark., Friday and Saturday). But I think they'll be all right. We'll be ready to play."

That big explosion kept Gilligan from going away from Cardinal Field in a bad mood.

It began with a single by Flynn, and when the ball skipped through Rick Evans, the center fielder, the swift Bird whipped all the way around the bases.

This broke the stalemate, pushing LU ahead 3-2. But there was much more to come. Laudig, Wearden and Cook followed with singles for the second run.

One out later, Brent Guidry dropped a squeeze bunt down the third base line for another tally. "That was a perfect bunt," said Gilligan. "He plunked it down just beautiful."

Ed Simonson, the Gents' hurler, couldn't keep the Cards off base. Joe McCann's sacrifice moved two runners into scoring position and both crossed the plate on Randy Kucera's single. Kucera stole second and dashed home on Ken Ahrens' hit up the middle.

★

FIRST GAME

Centenary	002 00 2-5 6 1
Lamar	100 00 1-2 5 2

Peyton (4-1) and Rowland Hept, Lucas (5) and Ahrens.
LP — Hept (4-3).

★★

SECOND GAME

Centenary	000 111 — 3 5 1
Lamar	200 060 x — 8 10 2

Simonson, Halgas (5) and Rowland; Neslone, Morgall (3), Tibbs (4), Touchstone (6) and Ahrens. WP — Tibbs (3-1). LP — Simonson (3-3).

Enterprise

sports

Wednesday, April 28, 1976

Baseball title on line

Still another sports title may be determined at the Southland Conference's spring carnival next Friday and Saturday at Jonesboro.

The baseball race appears to be going down to the wire, and if it does the focal point will be a three-game

at Jonesboro in the final series to claim an outright title.

Lamar takes an 11-game winning streak and a 30-6 season record against Texas-Arlington. The Cardinals swept from the Mavericks, 1-0 and 9-0, Friday for their current 1½-game lead over Arkansas State.

Arkansas State remained in contention by winning two out of three Friday and Saturday from defending champion Louisiana Tech (4-8).

McNeese State won a pair Friday from Southwestern Louisiana, 3-2 and 12-8, but lost important ground in the pennant race Saturday with a 12-4 setback.

McNeese, responsible for all three of Lamar's losses, is now 6-6 going into a final series against Louisiana Tech. Southwestern Louisiana is 5-7 in the conference.

SLC baseball

series between league-leading Lamar University (8-3) and second place Arkansas State (7-5).

Lamar's scheduled game Saturday at Texas-Arlington was rained out and has been rescheduled for Sunday at noon. Depending on the outcome, coach Jim Gilligan's team will need anything from one victory to a sweep

LU nine going with best against A-State

4-29-76
JONESBORO — Coach Jim Gilligan went with his best Friday afternoon.

That means Paul Touchstone and Rick Nesloney in starting assignments and Buddy Tibbs in the bullpen against an Arkansas State team which needs to sweep three games to head off Lamar's charge to the Southland Conference baseball title.

If Lamar doesn't get a clinching victory today the Cardinals try again Saturday with rookie Mike Morgal.

Lamar goes into the final series with a 9-3 record while Arkansas State is 7-5. More than the SLC title is on the

SLC baseball

line for the spoils include a berth in the NCAA playoffs May 28-31 at Arlington.

Gilligan is interested in making one change in the makeup of the NCAA regional meet, compared to last year's. He expects the Texas Longhorns, Pan American

and Southern Alabama will be there again. "We want to be the Southland representative," he said. "It's that simple."

Except for Tibbs' emergence, Gilligan might be groping for the panic button despite Lamar's two game lead at this late hour. The Cardinals left behind Jarvis Lucas who has appeared as a reliever in 15 of Lamar's 39 games.

"Jarvis was too sick to make the trip. I thought he might be able to drive up Thursday but he didn't. We'd like to have him here, but I'm not sure I wouldn't go with Tibbs anyway," Gilligan asserted.

The junior from Port Neches-Groves has won the last three games in which he has competed and Gilligan says he isn't the least bit surprised.

"Last fall he looked like he might be my number one pitcher. He fell into a bad groove and didn't get straightened out until we did a very minor thing, which was speeding up his windup. Now he has rhythm and confidence. I'd say it couldn't be at a better time," Gilligan said.

—JOHN DEVILLIER

4-30-76

Cardinals grab

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

JONESBORO, Ark. — Brent Guidry returned to Lamar University's lineup as a designated hitter Friday, and his two-run single in the ninth inning powered the Cardinals to a title-clinching victory over Arkansas State.

The win came after Arkansas State took the opener, 4-2.

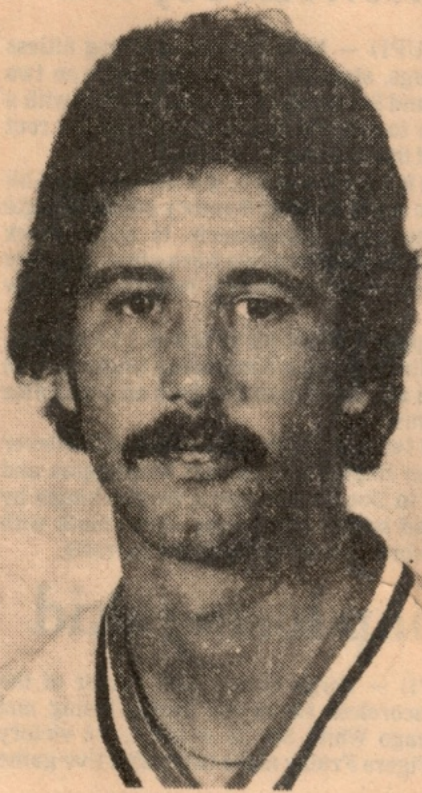
With the Southland Conference pennant — Lamar's first clear-cut title in a major sport since the baseball and track teams pulled a "double" in 1971 — goes an automatic invitation to the NCAA playoffs in Arlington May 28-31.

Guidry, a starter through most of the Cardinals' splendid 33-8 season, but relegated to spot assignments during a hitting slump, said he was "just trying to get wood on the ball" when he whacked a John Harness pitch to left field.

The hit scored Mike Laudig and Rufus Cook, who had singled and advanced on a walk to Bob Bobbitt. A squeeze bunt by Joe McCann scored Guidry with additional insurance.

In three earlier trips to the plate, Guidry was oh-for-three, although he had scored the tying run at 6-6, walking ahead of shortstop Randy Kucera's clutch double in the top of the eighth.

"We were all pressing too hard after



BRENT GUIDRY

FIRST GAME

Arkansas State 4, Lamar 2

Lamar (32-8, 9-4) 000 002 0-2 8 5

Arkansas State (15-22, 8-5) 101 020 x-4 6 1

Batteries: Lamar—Touchstone and Ahrens; Arkansas State—Williams and Davis.

WP: Williams. LP: Touchstone

SECOND GAME

Lamar 9, Arkansas State 6

Lamar (33-8, 10-4) 040 010 013-9 13 2

Ark. St. (15-23, 8-6) 130 010 100-6 8 4

Batteries: Lamar—Nesloney, Tibbs (9) and Ahrens; Arkansas State—Harness and Davis.

WP: Nesloney LP: Harness

SLC baseball championship

losing the first game," said Guidry, a junior from Port Arthur Jefferson. "I know I found myself trying too hard. I decided to relax and try to move the ball around. He gave me a high, hard one. It was a little inside, and I don't know how I got around on it."

Coach Jim Gilligan had to shout to make himself heard over the tumult in the Redbird dugout. "It was a true championship game," he said. "You bet we were worried. I thought for a while it was going to be one of those days. They beat us in the first game, and then we couldn't get ahead and stay ahead in the second one."

Lamar (10-4) and Arkansas State meet Saturday at 11 a.m., but the Indians are

out of it at 8-6 and Gilligan likes the total absence of pressure.

"We've had all the pressure we want since losing three to McNeese," he said. "You better believe we're happy we don't have to go into the final game with everything on the line."

The Cardinals took a 4-0 lead in the second inning on singles by Ken Ahrens, Kucera and Harold Flynn, but Arkansas State tied the score at 4-4 and 5-5 before assuming a 6-5 lead in the seventh.

Rick Nesloney wavered throughout, but wasn't pulled until Buddy Tibbs was called on to retire the final batter.

Lamar had 13 hits in the second game.

The Cardinals played themselves into a 4-0 hole in the opener, committing five

errors while Arkansas State nicked Paul Touchstone for six hits.

Although he didn't give up an earned run, Touchstone didn't have a routine inning until the sixth. The loss was his first after six straight victories.

Lamar tagged Paul Williams for eight hits, and the Indian hurler went the distance without posting a strikeout. The Cards helped him by blowing excellent scoring chances, like in the third when Flynn singled but was picked off just before Billy Wearden tripled.

Singles by Laudig and Cook and an error on Wearden's grounder loaded the bases in the fifth. Frank Romeo's single produced one run, and McCann's infield out the other.

Lamar falls, 3-2

5-1-76

JONESBORO, Ark.—Arkansas State baseball coach Ike Tomlinson celebrated his “day” here Saturday with a 3-2 victory over Lamar University’s newly-minted Southland Conference champions.

Tomlinson, who has served ASU in various athletic capacities for 33 years, retires at the end of the year and the occasion was marked by a round of testimonials at the SLC spring sports festival.

With the victory, the Indians locked up second place in the standings with a 9-6 record. Lamar hoisted the pennant Friday, splitting with Arkansas State, and the Cardinals will go into the NCAA regional playoffs with a 10-5 conference mark and 33-9 overall.

Lamar was held to five hits by Steve Morrison but took a 2-0 lead in the finale on singles by Brent Guidry and Bill Wearden, a squeeze bunt by Rufus Cook and Frank Romeo’s triple, all in the sixth inning.

ASU tied it in the seventh. Mark Williams singled, Bob Camras was hit by a Mike Morgal pitch, and John Davis’ single got through Guidry in right field. The Indians’ winning run came in the eighth when Henry Washington singled and Jerome Miller followed with a triple.

Arkansas State 3 Lamar University 2

Lamar	000..002..000—
Ark. St.	000..000..21—

LU: Morgal and Ahrens.

ASU: Morrison and Davis

Southland

LU, Aggies play two

College baseball makes a rare appearance in Port Arthur today when the Lamar University Cardinals host the Texas Aggies in a doubleheader at Public School Field.

First game of the two-night pair begins at 5:30 p.m.

Both the Cardinals and the Aggies have one eye on the strike zone and the other on the College World Series, which is the reason for their rivalry here. Lamar is in the NCAA South Central regional tournament opening Friday at Arlington, and the Aggies will be playing for a World Series ticket in the Midwest regionals at Edinburg.

Before they point their bus towards College Station, the Southwest Conference runnerup Aggies will meet Lamar, the Southland Conference champion, in a twin bill Monday at 1 p.m. at the Cardinals' field.

The two will be no strangers by then. The long warmup began last Monday when the Aggies won a doubleheader, 7-2 and 7-5.

"I'm not too upset by those losses," Lamar coach Jim Gilligan said. "We had a 17-day layoff and it showed. But we're a streaking team and we'd like to get something started before we show up

at Arlington."

The Cardinals' first-round match in the regionals will be Texas, which went on to win the national college title in 1975.

Lamar had streaks of 17 and 12 games while compiling a 33-11 record but the Cardinals definitely are not on one now. They lost two of three to Arkansas State before their double loss to the Aggies.

Gilligan plans to use all of his pitching mainstays against the Aggies in an effort to build some momentum. Rick Nesloney (8-2), a junior college transfer, and Mike Morgal (8-3), a rookie from New York, are today's probables. Paul Touchstone (6-1), Buddy Tibbs (3-1) and Eddie Heppt (4-3) will see action Monday.

Even when their pitchers have faltered, the Cardinals have remained on a hitting binge. Outfielder Harold Flynn won the SLC batting title with a .367 average, third baseman Billy Wearden hit .344, outfielder Mike Laudig .324, first baseman Rufus Cook .326 and rookie second baseman Joe McCann .304 in performances which won each of them all-conference honors.

LU drops two to Aggie nine

Lamar University dropped a tuneup doubleheader Monday to Texas A&M then drew defending national champion Texas University in the first round of the NCAA South Central Regional tournament.

If that news wasn't sobering enough, the NCAA front office also picked powerful Oklahoma (59-16) and Miami (40-13) to complete the lineup for the May 28-31 meet at Arlington Stadium, home of the Texas Rangers.

"It's a super field," said Lamar baseball coach Jim Gilligan, who hasn't changed his mind about wanting to play Texas in the opener. "Believe me, we're looking forward

to it."

The Aggies swept the Cardinals at College Station, 7-2 and 7-5. It was Lamar's first action since the Cardinals locked up the Southland Conference title and the NCAA tourney spot on May 1, and Gilligan said the rust was showing.

"We were getting some wood on the ball late in the second game but they had it sewed up by then," he said. Texas A&M got a three-hit pitching job from Clint Thomas and Mark Thurmond in the opener and went to a 6-0 lead in the nightcap before the Cardinals began moving the ball around.

Lamar matched A&M's 11 hits in

the second game and Cardinal outfielder Harold Flynn socked a home run.

Texas A&M and Lamar play a twin bill next Monday in Beaumont. It will be the final appearance of the year for a Cardinal team which is 33-11 after Monday's double loss.

Lamar expects to face one of college baseball's all-time pitching greats when the Cardinals face Texas the night of May 28, following a 5 p.m. game between Texas and Oklahoma.

The Longhorns' Richard Wortham has a 17-1 record for the Steers this year. He has 48 career victories.

Lamar sets more games

BEAUMONT—Lamar's baseball team is going to get to know Texas A&M's nine pretty well before the two go their separate ways in the NCAA playoffs.

The Southland Conference champions and the Southwest's Conference's runnerup team, have scheduled two more doubleheaders against each other, with one of the twin bills to be played Sunday night in Port Arthur.

LU, which dropped a pair to the Aggies Monday in College Station, will play another pair there Thursday. The teams will then play in Port Arthur Sunday evening at Public School Park and go at it again Monday in Beaumont.

Lamar, 33-11, faces SWC champion Texas May 28 in the first round of the NCAA playoffs in Arlington.

Lamar hosts Aggies Sunday

BEAUMONT — Lamar University hosts Texas A&M in a four-game series Sunday and Monday as the Cardinals make final preparations for the NCAA South Central regional tournament.

Sunday's doubleheader will be a 5:30 p.m. event and will be played in Port Arthur at Public School Field. Monday's twinbill will be at 1 p.m. at Cardinal Field in Beaumont.

The Cardinals lost a doubleheader to the Aggies May 17 in the first outing by the Southland Conference champions in 16 days. Coach Jim Gilligan's Lamar club had sloppy play in the field and shaky patching in losing by scores of 7-2 and 7-5.

Texas A&M, 39-8, was the Southwest Conference

While Lamar will be trying to regain its previous sharpness in the field, the Cardinals continued strong hitting against Texas A&M by walloping 14 hits in the two games against the Aggies' aces.

Centerfielder Harold Flynn, who finished the regular season with a Southland Conference leading .367 average, blasted a home run and a double to drive in three runs in Monday's game.

Flynn, Billy Wearden (.344), Mike Laudig (.324), Rufus Cook (.326) and Joe McCann (.304) have provided the big bats for the Cardinals who are currently 33-11 this season.

During the weekend series, Gilligan will toss front-

Packed house sees LU, Aggies split

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

Lamar University and Texas A&M renew their pre-tournament series in Beaumont today in the wake of a split doubleheader that packed 'em in Sunday at Public School Field.

A full house saw the Cardinals edge the Aggies in eight innings, 4-3, on designated hitter John Gilligan's bunt which squeezed Mike Laudig.

Texas A&M strikeout ace Clint Thomas survived a shaky start and shortstop Robert Bonner hit two home runs and triple as the Southwest Conference runnersup won the nightcap, 5-3.

No one kept a headcount but considering the ebb and flow of the crowd it's estimated 2,500 fans got a glimpse of two teams which are taking opposite paths to what they hope is the same destination — the College World Series.

Lamar, 34-12 after Sunday's pair, takes Southland Conference colors to the NCAA's South Central tourney in Arlington May 28-31. The Aggies (37-10)

are the wild card entry in Edinburg's Midwest regional meet.

"We looked sharper defensively," Cardinal coach Jim Gilligan said after a rematch with the team which swept two from him last week. "I was disappointed, though, that we didn't get more off Thomas when we had the chance."

Laudig touched Thomas for a home run in the first inning and the Cardinals loaded the bases off him in the second inning, scoring twice on hits by Ken Ahrens and Harold Flynn but hitting twice into forceouts at home plate.

Bonner, who hit his first home run of the year in the first inning, tagged Mike Morgal a second time with one aboard in the second. That tied the score at 3-3.

After Buddy Grobe singled, John Biersner lofted one into the lights and it fell beside Laudig for a triple.

Thomas, who entered the game with 91 strikeouts in 89 innings, needed no more encouragement. He gave up only six hits while posting his 10th win against three losses and he added eight strikeouts to his impressive total.

The Cardinals got a route-going effort from Rick Nesloney (9-2) in the first game, confirming Gilligan's hunch that he'll be Lamar's starter against defending national champion Texas in first-round action Friday at Arlington.

Billy Wearden's two-run double put Lamar ahead by 3-1 in the fifth inning but the Aggies tied it again in the sixth when Buster Turner drove in two runs with a double.

In the eighth, the lefthanded-hitting Laudig punched a wrong-way single to left and Rufus Cook's line shot to right field moved him all the way to third. John Gilligan dropped abunt in front of the mound and pitcher Mark Ross' hurried throw was juggled by Turner while Laudig generated a dust storm in his slide across the plate.

If anything Sunday matched Bonner's heavy work with the bat, it was the way Flynn patrolled centerfield for the Cardinals. The 6-2 junior from Houston wore out a pair of shoes covering an area bounded on one side by the scoreboard and on the other by the Little House on

the Prairie. He handled 11 chances in all, robbing Bill Raynor of extra bases on a 400-foot blast to the fence in the first game and depriving the Aggies of at least two other sure hits. Everything else he made look easy.

Today's Lamar-Aggie series begins at 1 p. m. at Cardinal field. Paul Touchstone is having shoulder problems, so Gilligan will be going with Port Neches-Groves' Buddy Tibbs and rookie Eddie Heppt. The Aggies' No. 1 pitcher, lefty James Gibson, also gets a final checkout before throwing at Edinburg against Missouri.

Texas A&M	000	102	00-3	8	2
Lamar U.	100	020	01-4	7	0

Mark Ross and Buster Turner; Rick Nesloney and Ken Ahrens.

2B—Billy Wearden (LU), Bill Raymer (A&M), Turner.

Texas A&M	103	000	1-5	8	1
Lamar U.	120	000	0-3	6	0

Mike Morgal, Jarvis Lucas (4) and Ahrens; Clint Thomas and John Biersner.

HR—Robert Bonner 2 (A&M), Mike Laudig (Lamar).

3B—Bonner, Biersner.

Ahrens' homer good omen for LU

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

BEAUMONT — Lamar University was looking for a sign and a sendoff and got both in one mighty flourish of Ken Ahrens' bat here Monday.

The flame-topped sophomore catcher from Spring Woods bashed a three-run homer with two out in the bottom of the ninth and the Cardinals beat the Texas Aggies, 6-3, in a final tuneup for the NCAA's South Central tournament.

"We're on our way! We're going up there to win. I know we are," exclaimed Ahrens after threading his way through a cordon of teammates who clogged the third base line.

Ahrens' blow, coming after Rufus Cook and John Gilligan came through with clutch hits to tie the score at 3-3, gave the Cardinals their second split is

as many days against the Aggies. The Southwest Conference runnersup won the first game Monday, 7-3, behind the pitching of nationally-prominent James Gibson and the home run power of South Parker Robert Verde, John Biersner and Bob Bonner.

Splitting isn't as good as sweeping but let it be remembered that the Aggies, too, are headed for one of the NCAA's eight post-season meets. While Lamar opens against defending champion Texas at Arlington, A&M plays Missouri in the first-round of the Midwest tournament at Edinburg.

Their late heroics Monday enabled the Cardinals to knock out still another Southland Conference record. They have won 35 games (against 13 losses), one more than the 34 victories posted by the 1972 Louisiana Tech team.

The ninth-inning explosion also saved coach Jim Gilligan from acute embarrassment, for he ordered a sacrifice bunt with the Aggies leading 3-1 after a solo homer by Shelton McMath.

"I forgot all about the home run," confessed Gilligan, "I thought we were only one run behind."

After Mike Laudig opened the ninth with a walk, Gilligan instructed third baseman Billy Wearden to move him up. "Billy looked to me kinda funny but went up there and did what I told him to," said Gilligan, "then I snapped."

Cook's double to right-centerfield was only the third hit off David Lockett but it chased him in favor of lefty Alan Wilson.

Brother John Gilligan, Lamar's designated hitter, then completed the coach's reprieve by hitting a line drive to left to tie it at 3-3.

After Joe McCann walked on four pitches, Ahrens ended the game dramatically by belting the ball six feet over the left field fence.

"I have to admit I liked the way it ended," said Gilligan. "Everything turned out OK."

Almost as much as the finish, Gilligan liked the first six innings. Righthander Paul Touchstone, who has been troubled by a shoulder, worked effectively and retired with a 1-0 lead.

"He could have pitched more but we

didn't want to put a strain on him," said Gilligan. "I'm confident now he'll be all right for the tournament."

A&M jumped on Eddie Heppt in the eighth inning when Scott Paschal hit a two-run single, and McMath followed with his "forgotten" homer in the ninth.

Gilligan could be excused the lapse, for the Aggies hit three out of the park in the opener. Verde's came with one aboard and Biersner's with two on.

Bonner's was his third in the series. All came off righthander Buddy Tibbs, who had won three in a row for Lamar.

The Cardinals attacked Gibson for 10 hits but he had little trouble notching his 15th victory, which puts him No. 4 on college baseball's list of winners. He also ranks fourth in the nation with a 1.00 ERA, which suffered only fractionally when Ahrens, Harold Flynn, Frank Romeo and Wearden drilled fifth-inning single for two earned runs.

Texas A&M	021	010	3	-	7	9	1
Lamar U.	100	020	0	-	3	10	2

Gibson and Biersner; Tibbs and Ahrens.
2B — Grobe (A&M). HR — Verde (A&M),
Biersner (A&M), Bonner (A&M).

Texas A&M	000	000	021	-	3	8	1
Lamar U.	010	000	005	-	6	5	1

Lockett and Turner; Touchstone, Heppt (7) and Ahrens.
2B — Whiddon (A&M). HR — McMath (A&M), Ahrens (Lamar).

LU's hybrid lineup playoff bound

Editor's Note:

This is the first of two installments on Lamar University baseball coach Jim Gilligan and the Cardinal team he'll be taking to the NCAA regional playoffs May 28-31 in Arlington.

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

BEAUMONT — An improbable blend of Texans and New Yorkers have swept the Lamar University baseball team to one of the nation's best collegiate records.

"You haven't seen anything yet," says coach Jim Gilligan. "It's all in front of us — including the College World Series."

The Cardinals (33-9) have locked up one of four places in the NCAA's South Central Regional playoffs opening May 28 at Arlington and the man who guided them this far has a philosophy as rare as his hybrid lineup.

Gilligan, for instance, is one of few college coaches who doesn't resent the intrusion of professional baseball on the campus.

"When one of our players, like Julio Alonso, signs with a major league team it opens the door for someone like him to get into our program," says Gilligan. A

fireballing lefthander who was 18-6 in two seasons at Lamar, Alonso is advancing swiftly in the Detroit organization. "Give me two years of an Alonso and I'll tell him goodbye without a tear," swears Gilligan.

Gilligan predicts Alonso will be pitching for the Tigers before his rookie season is over and his concern is not for the richly-talented but for the marginal players pondering a future with the pros.

"If I'm not convinced one of our kids is ready for Class AA or Class AAA baseball, I'll try to persuade him to stay with us a while longer," says the man who has headed the Lamar program for four seasons. "The kind of baseball we play is better than the lower minors for developing skills."

Now that's a Gilligan-ism which runs against the grain: old-line baseball men insist young players blossom quickly in the bush leagues because they play every day.

"Baloney," he says. "Riding a bus on the backroads doesn't turn a youngster into a big leaguer. Playing every day certainly isn't the answer. A good college program has plenty of built-in time for teaching and learning."

Obviously Gilligan considers the Lamar University program a good one. "We have our selling points, alright," he says. "We play as good a schedule as any team in Texas. We compete equally against teams with better scholarship situations. Our boys can advance their chance to play professionally, and we have high goals like reaching the College World Series."

He says last but certainly not least is the opportunity to get a good education along the way. "No one plays baseball forever," Gilligan observes.

The Lamar coach, graying at 29, was an all-Southland Conference pitcher for the Cardinals in 1967 and 1968 but you have to go back farther to understand why he's able to pipeline talent from New York to Texas. He prepped at Bayside, N. Y., and continues to cultivate old friendships there. He's helped by insiders in a populous area where high school and summer league baseball is very prominent.

"Sure, I've got an advantage over some people and it would be foolish for me not to recruit in New York," he says. "There are many outstanding prospects in and near the city who want to play in

Texas, Arizona, California or anyplace the sun shines in the winter."

There are nine Easterners on a Lamar squad otherwise dominated by Southeast Texas players plus those from an irregular band around the Houston area.

"It's an enriching experience for everyone concerned," says Gilligan. "There are enough from the different geographical locations for clans to develop but it hasn't happened that way. Some of the New York kids have never seen woods before, except in Central Park, and all of a sudden they have Texans for roommates and hunting and fishing buddies."

If the Cardinals don't make it to the College World Series this year, at least they are a step closer than ever before. They rolled up streaks of 16 straight and 12 in a row on their way to the Southland Conference championship. A .289 team batting average left the school record book in shambles. Among the marks in 42 games were 266 runs, 57 doubles, 18 triples and 76 stolen bases — including 27 by outfielder Harold Flynn.

(Monday: A closer look at Flynn and his teammates.)

Sweet swingers put LU in playoffs

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

BEAUMONT — A sensational all-around performance by junior outfielder Harold Flynn is one reason the Lamar University Cardinals have reached the NCAA regional playoffs scheduled May 28-31 at Arlington.

Flynn hit .367 and stole 27 bases in 28 attempts for the hard-hitting Cardinals.

The wide-ranging centerfielder from Houston Austin also handled 87 chances, threw out four runners and made only one error for the kind of .989 fielding percentage which wins "Golden Glove" awards in any league.

"We've never shortchanged the necessity for playing good, solid defense," says coach Jim Gilligan.

Flynn is living proof. So is the fact the Cardinals turned three triple plays.

Ah, but Lamar is loaded with sweet swingers.

Billy Wearden, a senior third baseman from Wharton, hit .344 and knocked in 35 runs; first baseman Rufus Cook batted .326 and batted in 30 in his senior fling, and designated hitter John Gilligan hammered five home runs to go with 31 RBI's.

No one could tell from their outside wrappers what kind of performances Lamar extracted from players like shortstop Randy Kucera and outfielders Mike Laudig and Frank Romeo.

Kucera, an unimposing 5-11, 150-pounder nicknamed "Bird," was the team batting leader in conference play with a .378 average. He is a senior from Wharton.

Laudig, a French high product with 5-8, 170-pound dimensions, sweetened his .325 average with 11 extra bases. "His power baffles everyone except us," Gilligan explains. "It's there in his wrists."

Romeo, a 5-6 senior from Flushing, N. Y., didn't regain a starting job until midway of the season but hit four home runs and drove in 20 in only 70 times at bat.

Rookie of the year in a landmark campaign could be either second

baseman Joe McCann or pitcher Mike Morgal.

McCann was headed for Yale on an academic scholarship before Gilligan laid his spiel on Joe's "wonderful Irish mother." The Elmhurst, N. Y., citizen batted .304. "More than that," adds Gilligan, "he gave us gutsy, hard-nosed play at all times and unbelievable leadership for a freshman. I've never had a youngster who plays the game with more intensity."

Morgal, a 6-3, 210-pound lefthander from Glen Cove, N. Y., posted an 8-2 pitching record. He'll be counted on in the regionals alongside junior righthander Paul Touchstone, Rick Nesloney and Buddy Tibbs.

Touchstone, a Cardinal by way of LaMarque and Galveston County JC, spurned the University of Texas and the pros to post a 6-1 record here. His earned run average of 1.70 was best among the starters. Nesloney prepped at Tuloso-

Midway and pitched at Ranger JC before going 9-1 for Lamar.

Port Neches-Groves high school turned out Tibbs. In his last four appearances he chalked up three victories and then saved a 9-6 decision over Arkansas State to lock up the SLC title. In the same game, Port Arthur Jefferson's Brent Guidry banged a two-run double in the ninth to break a 6-6 tie.

"I'd say those two guys came through at just the right time," praised Gilligan.

Until Tibbs turned tiger, the Cardinals usually went to the bullpen for Jarvis Lucas (1-1 and 1.65 ERA).

"We might surprise them at regional," says Gilligan. "Everyone in our rotation has come through in the clutch and Eddie Heppt (a freshman from Astoria, N. Y.) is throwing well again."

Gilligan may have difficulty selecting a pitcher but he doesn't have a problem deciding on his catcher. He'll call on Ken

Ahrens, a Spring Woods sophomore with a red-head's legendary love for combat.

So far, Southwest Conference champion Texas is the only team besides Lamar which has clinched entry in the four-day meet at Arlington. Gilligan has scheduled four games with SWC runnerup Texas A&M, expected to be the at-large team in another tourney. The Cardinals and Aggies play two at College Station on May 17, then hook up in a pair here May 24.

Then it's bring on the Longhorns.

"I hope we meet them in the first round," says Gilligan. "We'll have to beat them to win regional so we might as well get started early."

If Gilligan doesn't appear awed by the 1975 national champion Longhorns, it's because he isn't.

"We split with them last year," he says. "Maybe they are better now, maybe not. But we are — we definitely are — and the best is yet to come."

Sooners earn series berth on 4-1 win

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — Oklahoma, buoyed by a three-run rally in the seventh inning, defeated Texas 4-1 Monday to gain a berth in next month's Collegiate World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The victory gave the Sooners the NCAA South-central Regional Tournament championship, and followed a 6-5 loss to Texas earlier Monday in the continuation of a Sunday game called because of rain.

The called game resumed in the ninth inning with the score at 5-5 and ended with an 11th inning homer by Wendell Hibbet.

In the finale, Oklahoma's Marty Kunkler, 11-5, picked up the victory in relief of starter Curtis Voyles. Kunkler pitched the last six innings allowing only four hits and one run.

Richard Wortham, who had pitched the Longhorns to the earlier victory, was charged with the loss, his second against 14 victories.

The Sooners, who won the first Oklahoma-Texas matchup of the tournament held at Ranger Stadium, collected only eight hits but seemed to make them all count.

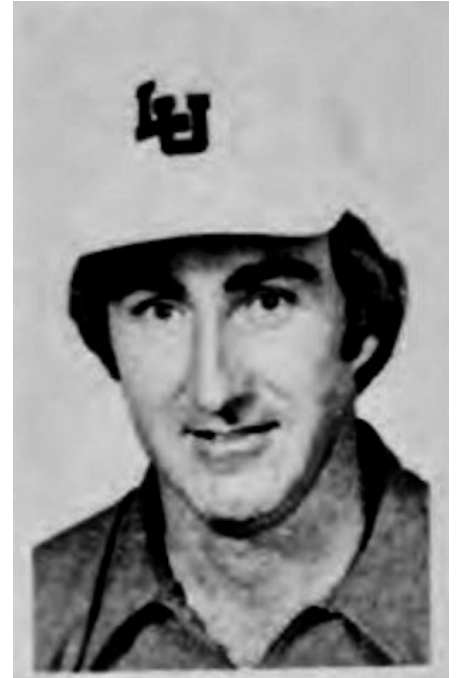
Texas, on the other hand, was having trouble scoring. In the key seventh inning, Oklahoma's Kelly Snider belted a two-run double aiding in the three-run inning.

The only Texas run came in the sixth innning on a single by Mickey Reichenbach, a passed ball and a single by Hibbett.

Lamar Attains Goals Under Young Gilligan

When Jim Gilligan assumed the role of head baseball coach at Lamar University in Beaumont in 1973, the 26-year-old had just one season of assistant coaching experience behind him.

After all, it's going to be different to build a program that can compete at a high level. The job of recruiting and developing professional-level players was new to him, and the College World Series was a far-off dream. But three years later, Gilligan has established himself as one of the nation's most promising young coaches, bringing Lamar University to new heights in the NCAA ranks.



His first Lamar squad went 11–31, but by the second year, the Cardinals were Southern Intercollegiate Conference champions. They reached the NCAA regional tournament last year for the first time in school history.

This season, the Cardinals are riding high again, earning the SLC championship with a 32–16 record, and earning a berth in the NCAA South Central Regional tournament in Arlington, Texas. Lamar will meet Texas Friday in the tournament's first round.

Gilligan's program has steadily expanded in scope and ambition, with improved training methods and increased recruiting reach. "I feel we have great athletes in Texas," Gilligan says. "It's getting better each year, but I'm always looking nationwide for outstanding talent."

While many coaches concentrate solely on athletic ability, Gilligan stresses character and academics as well. "Whether a kid has a knack for baseball or not, I'm looking for a player who will fit well at Lamar. We've had boys from Texas and from as far away as New York."

For a young coach, Gilligan has already earned respect and credibility, helping establish Lamar baseball as a competitive and respected program.

Lamar nine leaves

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

BEAUMONT — College baseball's most notorious hamburger eaters soon will be on a steady diet of steak.

Every time the Lamar University Cardinals pile on their bus after a road game, they start demanding sirloin. "You're gonna eat hamburger!" fires back coach Jim Gilligan, "Only champions eat steak."

The Cardinals groan, on cue. It's a standing joke.

But now Lamar is the champion of the Southland Conference and the choice cuts will be at the expense of the NCAA when the Redbirds compete in the Region 6 tournament at Arlington, later this month.

The Cardinals clinched the conference title by winning the middle game of a decisive series against Arkansas State, 9-6. They finished with a 10-5 record in the SLC for the school's first unshared title in a major sport since 1971.

Lamar takes a 33-9 record to the regional meet, which will produce one of the entries in the College World Series. The defending champion at Arlington May 28-31 will be SWC titleholder Texas. Pan American and Southern Alabama are probables in the four-team meet.

Gilligan says meanwhile he's going to put down his fungo bat for a few days and relax on the golf course. "I've been all psyched up since the conference race began. I'm going to give the kids a little time off and also unwind myself," he says.

Those who know the New York Irishman don't believe him for a minute. They expect he'll be gathering every scrap of information on Lamar's tournament rivals and tying up the telephone lines to schedule a few practice games before the meet begins.

"You're right about that," he concedes. "I'll be trying to get us a home-and-home series against Texas A&M. With their record, I imagine they'll be an at-large pick for one of the other regional meets."

He also admits he'll probably spend more time recruiting than hitting golf balls.

"Playing in the regionals has to help our recruiting," says Gilligan. "It already has caused people to sit up and take notice. I was on the phone right after we cinched the title, talking to some players we are interested in. They were almost as excited as I am about the prospects of playing Texas and the others."

Gilligan said he was in the process of following up on about 200 letters he had received from high school and junior college players and their coaches.

"We're not losing many players so our recruiting is going to be more limited than usual," said Gilligan, "but we always will be interested in the quality players."

If Gilligan never kissed the Blarney Stone, certainly his Gaelic ancestors did, but he's close-mouthed about who the best prospects are. "It's like things were before baseball had the draft. You see a good kid and you just keep quiet until you've signed him," he

hamburger league

relates.

Present NCAA rules allow 19 baseball scholarships but cost-cutting measures will reduce the number to 13. That doesn't bother Gilligan, who is getting along on less.

Comparatively few baseball players get the "full scholarship" treatment accorded to those who play football or basketball. It is common practice to fragment a scholarship — books for one boy, tuition for another, room and board for a third.

"I'm not bad mouthing the system," says the Lamar coach. "I think we can field a good club with 10 scholarships. There is a need to scout and recruit intensely. There can't be much guesswork, especially when you're laying out a full scholarship."

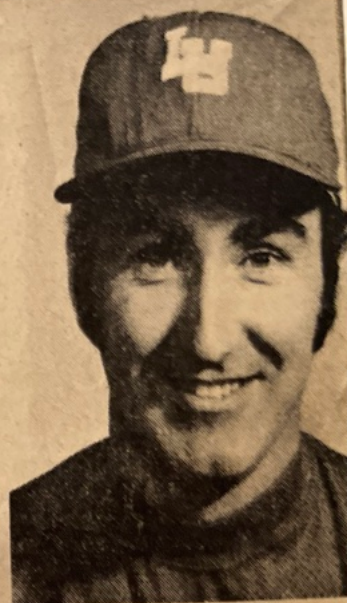
How does Gilligan sell a player on his program? "I tell them we have the world's finest hitting instructor in Al Vincent, who spent 41 years in baseball. If they are pitchers, I guarantee I will work with them personally. If they are New York kids, I just say, come on down, the weather here is fine."

Gilligan, a lefthanded pitcher in his playing days at Lamar, is especially proud of those players who weren't on everyone's wanted list.

"Harold Flynn was kinda feeling around with his bat at Alvin junior college but I timed him at 3.4 running to first base, slipped the stopwatch in my pocket and asked him to play for us," Gilligan recalls. He was someone special in Lamar's title drive, stealing 26 bases in 27 attempts, hitting .349 and covering centerfield like the dew.

No one knocked down the doors for third baseman Bill Wearden, shortstop Randy Kucera or first baseman Rufus Cook.

"You feel better when guys like that come through for you," admitted Gilligan. "Everyone was screaming and jumping up and down when we won the title at Jonesboro. I'd look into a face and get a flashback, remembering an extra hour when we worked on hitting, or trying to get a pitcher out of a slump. I knew then our program was headed in the right direction."



JIM GILLIGAN

Aggie coach would pitch UT lefty

By JOHN DeVILLIER
News Sports Staff

ARLINGTON — If Texas A&M coach Tom Chandler were standing in Cliff Gustafson's cleats, there's no doubt who the Texas Longhorns would pitch against Lamar University in the NCAA regional playoff opener Friday night.

Gustafson says he hasn't decided if it will be lefthanded ace Richard Wortham or rookie Ken Wright when the Longhorns open defense of their national title against the upstart Cardinals.

"I'd go with Wortham. No doubt about that," said Chandler, whose Aggies were second to Texas in the

NCAA baseball

Southwest Conference race. "Texas has to respect the way Lamar moves the ball around, and in any tournament it's important to win the first game."

The Longhorn-Cardinal match goes under Texas Ranger Stadium lights at 8 o'clock, give or take a few minutes either way. It follows a 5 o'clock game between Miami (Fla.) and Oklahoma. Winner of the South Central regional title advances to the College World Series.

Chandler is taking his Aggies to the Midwest meet at Edinburg and he was in the Port Arthur-Beaumont area this week for a pair of doubleheaders which

Lamar and A&M split down the middle.

"It has to be Wortham," Chandler said at the time. "He's a great pitcher (12-1 this year, 48-6 in the star-spangled career). And he'll have Lamar at something of a disadvantage in that two of their most dangerous hitters — Mike Laudig and Rufus Cook — bat lefthanded."

Chandler believes playing in the Rangers' spacious park is a plus for the Cardinals, who have tapped Rich Nesloney to oppose the Steers.

"That centerfielder (Harold Flynn) should enjoy himself immensely," said Chandler. "He has an acre to chase down fly balls. Just his legs make him an outstanding player before you even consider his bat and his arm."

Flynn came out of Houston Austin high school and apprenticed at Ranger Junior College before coach Jim Gilligan persuaded him to attend Lamar. He's hitting .363 and has stolen 29 bases in 30 attempts.

Chandler has one caution for the Cardinals. "Don't give 'em the cheap run," he warns. Was he implying the ball sometimes takes a Texas hop? "The sun always shines on the Longhorns," Chandler chuckled.

Even if the good bounces outnumber the bad, Gustafson is doing something right. He's guided the Longhorns to nine consecutive titles and their current 45-14 record has them ranked second in the nation behind Arizona.

Miami (40-3) is third in the polls and Oklahoma (59-16) is fourth, which says something for the quality of the South Central field.

Lamar is 35-13 and the fact his Cardinals aren't among the top 20 doesn't perturb Gilligan. "We're tickled to be here and anxious to get started," said the 20-year-old whose imports from his native New York have blended effectively with Southeast Texas talent.

Gilligan doesn't have an overpowering pitcher like his 1974-75 ace, Julio Alonso, but he says Nesloney (9-2), Mike Morgan (8-4), Paul Touchstone (6-1) and Buddy Tibbs (3-2) "can get the job done."

Nesloney has worked 85½ innings and his ERA is an unspectacular 3.48. "He has all the pitches," says Gilligan. "He has to go up there and mix 'em up and throw strikes, that's all."

Wortham, whom the Cardinals chased in a 1975 game, is 1.51 in the ERA column this year and has fanned 124 batters in 133 innings. Morgan has a 9-4 record.

Gilligan is not making any suggestions that might give Gustafson a clue. "All I know," he said, "is that Oklahoma is packed with lefthanded hitters and they may figure Wortham would be more effective against them. I feel we're going to hit the ball, no matter who throws. We've hit the good pitchers better than we've hit the junkmen."

The double-elimination meet here, one of eight opening around the nation, continues Saturday. First-round losers play at 2 p.m. and the winners meet at 7:30 p.m. There could be a champion as early as Sunday night or it could rock along until MONDAY.

Lamar's games will be carried on KAYC (1450) and KAYD-FM (97.5) by Ed Diettert.

Arlington hosts NCAA tourney tonight

Survivor of tourney advances to College World Series

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — The South Central NCAA baseball tournament which opens tonight boasts three well known collegiate aggregations and one that is trying to pick up a little national publicity.

Lamar's Cardinals, winners of the Southland Conference, will be thrown in with the Texas Longhorns, Miami Hurricane and Oklahoma Sooners. And Lamar coach Jim Gilligan knows his team has a major opportunity this

weekend.

"I feel our program is on the verge of reaching its initial goal," said Gilligan, 29. "We have been improving steadily and each year we have produced at least one professional player.

"Of course, our ultimate goal at Lamar is to get into the College World Series and I think we have the potential to do that this year. We certainly have a great opportunity."

Lamar (35-13) will open the double elimination tournament tonight against defending national champion Texas (39-14), while Miami (40-13) confronts Oklahoma (59-16) in the tourney opener.

The survivor of the tournament advances to the College World Series to be held next month in Omaha.

Texas will throw the winningest pitcher in college baseball history at the Cardinals tonight. Richard Wortham, who has 48 career wins against a mere six losses, gets the call for the Longhorns against Lamar's Rick Nesloney (8-1). Miami will send Dan Jakubowski, who has a gaudy 41-13 career mark, against Oklahoma's Ken Palmer (7-4).

Gilligan, a native of Bay-side, N.Y., has coached at Lamar for four seasons, but this is the first year the Cardinals have reached the NCAA playoffs.

NCAA baseball regionals set for Arlington Stadium

The NCAA South Central Regional baseball tournament will return to Arlington Stadium this spring, UTA officials announced this week.

Four of college baseball's best teams will gather on May 28-31 in a double-elimination event for the right to advance to the NCAA College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The regional playoffs will be held in Arlington for the fourth straight year. UTA will serve as host institution.

The South Central tournament had the honor a year ago of sending the eventual NCAA national champion to Omaha. Texas swept through the re-

gional unbeaten en route to the national title.

Other teams in the 1975 meet were top independents South Alabama and Pan American and Southland Conference champion Louisiana Tech.

THE CHAMPIONS of the Southwest and Southland conference will automatically qualify for this year's field along with two at-large teams. Texas is closing in on the Southwest championship, which the Longhorns can clinch this weekend. Lamar leads UTA by one game in the close Southland race.

In addition, Pan American is expected to be back in the NCAA meet after gaining the

finals a year ago.

"We're glad the NCAA regional is coming back to Texas and Arlington," UTA athletic director Dr. Bill Reeves said. "College baseball fans in Texas are the best in the nation. Last year's meet here far outdrew the other regionals across the nation."

Kal Segrist, head baseball coach at Texas Tech, will again serve as guest committee chairman. Reeves and Arlington mayor Tom Vandergriff will also serve on the committee along with Texas Ranger general manager Danny O'Brien.

"This meet is widely covered by our friends in the newspaper and radio-TV media," Reeves said.

NCAA SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL —

Texas and Lamar earned berths in the four-team NCAA South Central baseball regional last weekend by winning their respective conference championships.

The Longhorns, defending NCAA national champions, wrapped up the Southwest Conference crown by winning two of three games from Texas Tech in Lubbock. Texas is 33-14 overall and concluded league play at 19-5.

Lamar won only one of three games against Arkansas State in Jonesboro last weekend but it was enough

to put the Cardinals in the NCAA field, a spot they narrowly missed last year when Louisiana Tech beat them in a conference play-off.

Lamar lost the first game Friday, 4-2, then trailed the nightcap, 6-5, and had to score three runs in the last two innings to win and clinch the title. Lamar is 34-9 overall.

Pan American probably has the inside track to the third spot in the tournament. Other prospects are the second place finishers in the Western Athletic Conference and Big Eight Conference. Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Kansas State are all Big Eight favorites while Arizona will likely end up second to Arizona State in the WAC.

The NCAA South Central meet will be held May 28-31 at Arlington Stadium. It will be a double elimination affair.

Texas faces Lamar in NCAA tourney

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Gilligan, a native of Bayside, N.Y., has coached at Lamar for four seasons, but this is the first year the Cardinals have reached the NCAA playoffs.

"I feel we have made great strides in recruiting in Texas," he said. "It's getting easier and easier each year. But it's always tough to recruit against the University of Texas because of their tradition and scholarship situation.

"But we're able to show kids now that we have a traditionally strong program and Lamar will play as good a schedule as any school in Texas."

Texas Takes On Lamar

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Four college teams that rely on speed and pitching, playing at a spacious, windblown stadium that has frustrated major league power hitters for years, adds up to a low-scoring NCAA South Central Regional baseball tournament beginning Friday.

Defending national champion Texas joins Oklahoma, Miami, Fla., and Lamar University in the double elimination tournament which sends the winner to the College World Series at Omaha next month. All four coaches agree, "This has to be one of the toughest regionals in the nation."

The opening doubleheader at Arlington Stadium pits Oklahoma (59-16) against Miami (40-13) at 5 p.m. Friday, followed by Texas (39-14) against Lamar (35-13).

Arlington Stadium's major league size and prevailing south winds should keep the scoring down in the tournament, even without considering the teams' strengths.

Lamar's earned run average is a strong 3.15, but it has the worst ERA of the four squads. All four teams also averaged less than one homer every two games.

For speed, Miami boasts 172 stolen bases in 200 attempts while Oklahoma has pilfered 163 bases in 183 attempts.

"We're not afraid of the wind blowing in," said Miami assistant coach Skip Bertman

Thursday. "We have speed, so wind and the big ball park should help us."

Bertman may have to lead the Hurricanes in the tournament unless head man Ron Fraser, who was left in Miami with a badly infected foot and leg, recovers enough to fly to Texas Friday.

Against Oklahoma, Miami will send Stan Jakubowski, who has won 41 games in his career, to pitch against Ken Palmer. On Saturday, when the Friday winners and Friday losers meet in another doubleheader, Miami can come back with Gavin Long, a junior who has won 14 games without a loss.

Jakubowski plans to get married Saturday night in New Jersey, but Bertman said he would fly back to Texas Monday if the Hurricanes reach a championship game that night.

The Sooners appear to have a hitting edge on the Hurricanes. Oklahoma has a .322 team average to .265 for Miami, and the Sooners have three .350 hitters — Keith Drumwright, Terry Bogener and Greg Stitzinger.

"I think this is the toughest regional in the country," said Oklahoma Coach Enos Semore. "I was a little surprised to see this many good teams in one regional. But we are glad to be here. We are close to home and should have some fans here."

IN NCAA REGIONAL MEET

Texas, OU To Open

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(See TEXAS on Page 18)

NCAA Regional Baseball Notepad

Miami's Long Nearing Gideon's Mark

Ace Miami hurler **GAVIN LONG**, who iced 14 victories this year with no defeats, is within three victories of equalling the national seasonal record for pitching wins without a loss....Texas' **JIM GIDEON**, now with the Texas Rangers farm system, set the mark last year....**TERRY BOGNER**, who just happens to be the leading hitter for the Oklahoma Sooners with his .354 average, didn't even play baseball in high school....In the eight years that **CLIFF GUSTAFSON** has headed the Texas baseball program, he has won the Southwest Conference title each year. Seven of those eight years, he has taken the Longhorns to the College World Series. Once there, they have won once, finished third three times and fourth twice.... Calling their team the "greenest ever", the Miami Hurricanes will only have six seniors on the team when they enter the NCAA playoffs this weekend....three of them are pitchers....Outfielder **GARY THWEATT**, the Sooners fourth leading hitter, was named as the fastest player in college baseball a year ago.... Lamar head coach **JIM GILLIGAN** can't say enough about his speedy center fielder **HAROLD FLYNN**. "He waits on balls that a lot of major leaguers can't catch," says Gilligan.

Saying that the University of Miami loves to run the base paths would be an

understatement. In more than 200 tries this year, they were successful on 80 percent of them. They lack as a team one from a national mark and nine players currently have over 10 alone....**HOWIE SHAPIRO** leads the team with 31, while hardest to catch is **ROBERT FELDMAN**, who has 21 steals in 23 attempts.... Texas pitcher **RICHARD WORTHAM**, who stood in the shadows of **JIM GIDEON** last year, led the Horns pitching with a 12-1 record, 1.51 ERA, innings pitched with 113 and strike outs with 124....**KEITH DRUMRIGHT**, the Sooners second baseman, is currently hitting .352 and has hit over .300 in each of his previous three years as a starter....Miami slugger **RANDY GUERRA**, who leads his team in home runs with five, has hit them over all field fences this year, despite his being left-handed. In fact, he knocked one some 420 feet against Georgia Southern this year....All four teams in the Arlington Stadium NCAA regional tournament will be guests of the Texas Rangers in their game with Kansas City tomorrow night...Speaking of the Rangers, broadcaster **DICK RISENHOOVER** will be the master of ceremonies tomorrow at noon at the Cibola Inn during a luncheon for the members of the teams.

Don't be confused if you see the same faces at different positions for the

Herrricanes. Miami's squad features identical twins, **RICHARD** and **ROBERT FELDMAN**, both outfielders. Both are 5-11, weigh 155 and bat and throw right handed....Oklahoma played the longest schedule ever this past season—76 games. "I'll admit that this is an ambitious schedule, but we are also looking to the future to keep what we've built going," explains coach **ENOS SEMORE**. "We try to get better each year and I think we've gone in that direction. I don't want to stop now.".....Lamar's **RANDY KUCERA** was the Southland Conference's leading slugger, knocking a .378 average in 13 conference games this year.... Under **GUSTAFSON**, 19 former Longhorn baseballers started the spring in training camps with the pros. Most notable are Gideon and **KEN PAPE** with the Rangers, **DAVE CHALK** with the California Angels and **BURT HOOTON** with the Los Angeles Dodgers... Schedule of games looks like: Miami and Oklahoma at 5 p.m. Friday followed by Texas-Lamar. Saturday the losers meet at 2 p.m. and the winners will meet at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, the winner of the Saturday 2 p.m. game will meet the loser of the Saturday 7:30 game at 2 p.m. Then at 7:30 p.m. Sunday night, the winner of the Saturday 7:30 p.m. game will meet the winner of the earlier Sunday game. Got all that?

UT Has Tradition on Their Side

As far as tradition is concerned, the University of Texas has more than its fair share.

Of course, when your team wins their league championship nine years straight, goes to the College World Series seven of the past eight years and eventually wins the national title once, finishes third three times and fourth two more times, there's bound to be some tradition

in the forming.

And that's exactly what the Texas Longhorns have.

And that's also what the Horns will be boasting this afternoon when they meet the Lamar Cardinals in the opening round of their ninth consecutive NCAA regional tournament at Arlington Stadium.

Under the guidance of Coach Cliff Gustafson, the Longhorns have swept the Southwest Conference title all nine years he's been there. Furthermore, Gustafson has tutored 12 All-Americans including California Angel shortstop Dave Chalk and three-time winner Burt Hooton.

This year, the Horns were coming off a national championship after coming back from the loser's bracket last year to down South Carolina in the finals. They had lost such players as Jim Gideon, Rick Bradley and Martin Flores, but still had the tradition that comes with winning 52 SWC titles in the last 62 years.

The conference, as a whole, was tougher than it had been in previous seasons, but the Longhorns captured the title with a 19-5 record, finishing as the No. 2 ranked team in the country with a 39-14 slate.

As a team, Texas finished with a .276 hitting average, not as strong as in the past, but still good enough for a winning season. Centerfielder Charles Proske topped the Horns at the plate this season with his .361 mark.

Their fourth leading slugger, Rob Stamp was chipping at .282 average before being ruled ineligible last weekend when a dropped course put him below the 12 semester hours he needed to remain officially eligible.

But the Horns still had the powers of leftfielder Wendell Hibbett (.311) and rightfielder Karl Pagel (.310), as their only .300-plus hitters. Hibbett was also the Longhorn leader in home runs with 7 this season.

Pitching was another weak spot for Texas, considering they only had one starter with any great amount of experience returning from last year's national championship squad. Southpaw Richard Wortham, a three-year letterman, closed out his senior year with a near-perfect 12-1 record with a 1.51 ERA over 113 innings.

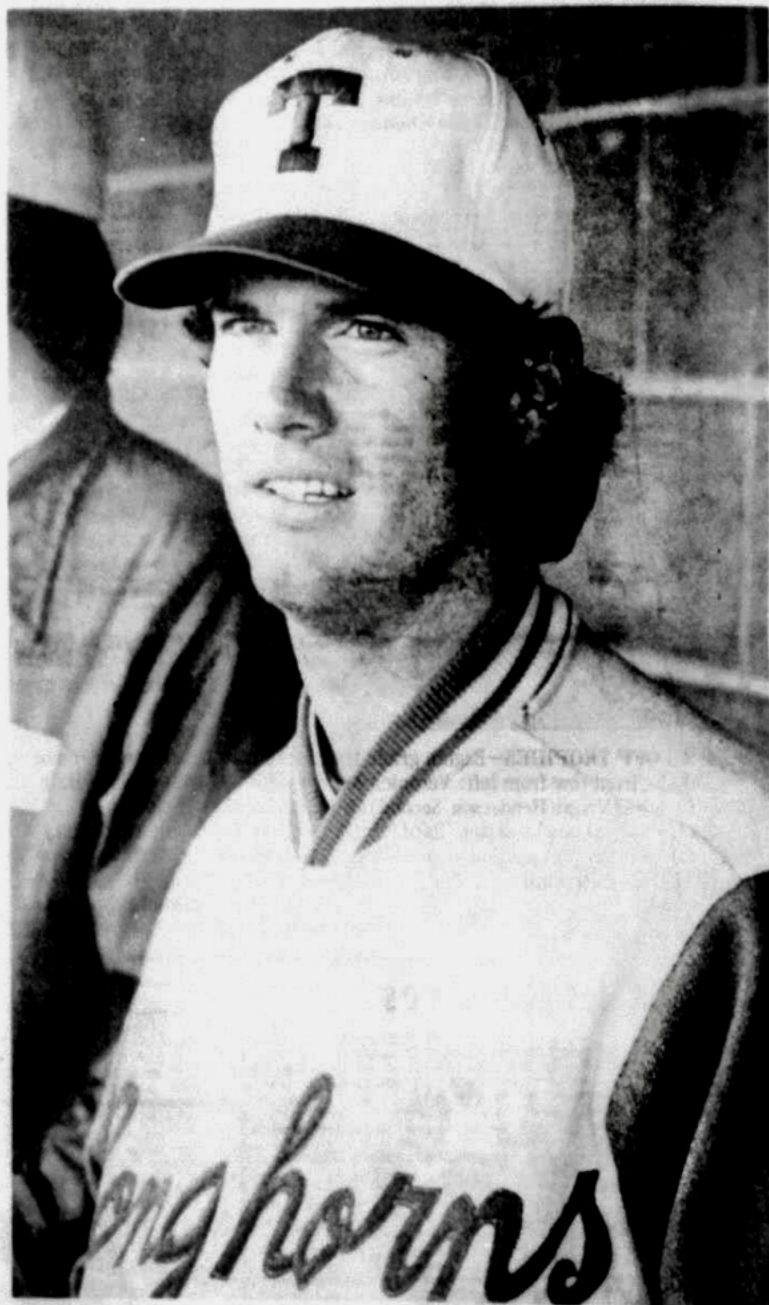
"Figuring we only had one established starter back in Wortham, I was very pleased with out pitching," said Gustafson. "Wortham had a super year."

Texas also enjoyed the comeon of freshman hurler Kem Wright, who sparkled with a 9-4 rookie season and 2.21 ERA.

Regular first baseman Mickey Reichenbach was also tried out on the mound some this season and towards the end of the season, Gustafson was using the Taylor junior as his No. 2 starting pitcher. Reichenbach finished the regular season with an undefeated 5-0 mark, complete with a 1.13 ERA, the lowest on the team.



GUSTAFSON



TEXAS' RICHARD WORTHAM...

...on mound for Longhorns

Steer Pitching Key In NCAA Play

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Four college teams that relay on speed and pitching, playing at a spacious, windblown stadium that has frustrated major league power hitters for years, adds up to a low-scoring NCAA South Central Regional baseball tournament beginning Friday.

Defending national champion Texas joins Oklahoma, Miami, Fla., and Lamar University in the double elimination tournament which sends the winner to the College World Series at Omaha next month. All four coaches agree, "This has to be one of the toughest regionals in the nation."

The opening doubleheader at Arlington Stadium pits Oklahoma 59-16 against Miami 40-13 at 5 p.m. Friday, followed by Texas 39-14 against Lamar 35-13.

Arlington Stadium's major league size and prevailing south winds should keep the scoring down in the tournament, even without considering the team's strengths.

Lamar's team earned run average is a strong 3.15, but it has the worst ERA of the four squads. All four teams also averaged less than one homer every two games.

The Sooners were runners up in the Big Eight Conference and were ranked 11th nationally by Collegiate Baseball magazine, while independent Miami was third.

Texas, Southwest Conference winner and second nationally, is expected to send Richard Wortham against Rick Nesloney for Lamar in the nightcap.

Wortham is 12-1 for the Longhorns and set an NCAA career record of 48 victories during the year. Nesloney is 8-1.

Texas Coach Cliff Gustafson said he will not decide for sure

whether he will start Wortham in Texas' first game until after the Miami-Oklahoma game.

Lamar is unranked but was the winner of a tough Southland Conference battle.

UT opens title defense

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All four teams also averaged less than one homer every two games.

For speed, Miami boasts 172 stolen bases in 200 attempts while Oklahoma has

pilfered 163 bases in 183 attempts.

Against Oklahoma, Miami will send Stan Jakubowski, who has won 41 games in his career, to pitch against Ken Palmer.

On Saturday, when the Friday winners and Friday losers meet in another doubleheader, Miami can come back with Gavin Long, a junior who has won 14 games without a loss.

Jakubowski plans to get married Saturday night in New Jersey, but Bertman said he would fly back to Texas Monday if the Hurricanes reach a championship game that night.

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For speed, Miami boasts 172 stolen bases in 200 attempts while Oklahoma has pilfered 163 bases in 183 attempts.

"We're not afraid of the wind blowing in," said Miami assistant coach Skip Bertman Thursday. "We have speed, so wind and the big ball park should help us."

Bertman may have to lead the Hurricanes in the tournament unless head man Ron Fraser, who was left in Miami with a badly infected foot and

leg, recovers enough to fly to Texas Friday.

Against Oklahoma, Miami will send Stan Jakubowski, who has won 41 games in his career, to pitch against Ken Palmer. On Saturday, when today's winners and today's losers meet in another doubleheader, Miami can come back with Gavin Long, a junior who has won 14 games without a loss.

Jakubowski plans to get married

Saturday night in New Jersey, but Bertman said he would fly back to Texas Monday if the Hurricanes reach a championship game that night.

The Sooners appear to have a hitting edge on the Hurricanes. Oklahoma has a .322 team average to .265 for Miami, and the Sooners have three .350 hitters—Keith Drumwright, Terry

(See TEXAS on Page 18)

Texas Heads Tournament

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — The South Central NCAA baseball tournament which opens tonight boasts three well known collegiate aggregations and one that is trying to pick up a little national publicity.

Lamar's Cardinals, winners of the Southland Conference, will be thrown in with the Texas Longhorns, Miami Hurricane and Oklahoma Sooners. And Lamar coach Jim Gilligan knows his team has a major opportunity this weekend.

"I feel our program is on the verge of reaching its initial goal," said Gilligan, 29. "We have been improving steadily and each year we have produced at least one professional player.

"Of course, our ultimate goal at Lamar is to get into the College World Series and I think we have the potential to do that this year. We certainly have a great opportunity."

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Gilligan, a native of Bayside, N.Y., has coached at Lamar for four seasons, but this is the first year the Cardinals have reached the NCAA playoffs.

"I feel we have made great strides in recruiting in Texas," he said. "It's getting easier and easier each year. But it's always tough to recruit against the University of Texas because of their tradition and scholarship situation.

"But we're able to show kids now that we have a traditionally strong program and Lamar will play as good a schedule as any school in Texas."

NCAA: It's Time to Play Ball

Four of Nation's Best Here for Regional Tournament

The National Collegiate Athletic Association baseball lords have taken kindly to the South Central Regional tournament again, summoning four of the nation's top teams for this weekend's extravaganza at Arlington Stadium.

The nation's second and third-ranked teams headline the guest list and they'll have teams with two of the better records around to contend with beginning today when the meet opens with a 5 p.m. doubleheader.

Third-rated Miami of Florida (40-13) takes on Oklahoma (59-16) in the first game and No. 2-ranked Southwest Conference champion Texas (39-14) and Lamar (33-9), champion of the Southland Conference, tangle in the nightcap.

The survivor of possibly four days of double-elimination play advances to the College World Series June 11-18 in Omaha, Neb., and a first-round date with the winner of the Rocky Mountain Region.

For the record, top-ranked Arizona State is the favorite in the Rocky Mountain tournament.

Miami didn't expect to have as potent a team before the season began with a large group of newcomers, but swept two of three games with playoff-bound Florida State to end the season and nail down its berth.

Miami, in the playoffs for the fourth straight year, gained the College World Series in 1974, finishing second. Along the way, the Hurricanes defeated Oklahoma, 5-1.

The Sooners, second to Arizona State in 1976 victories, have been to the College World Series six times, owning a championship in 1951. Oddly, the team that has sent Oklahoma packing from the last four College World Series is Texas.

The Longhorns, who won their fifty-first Southwest Conference championship this year in 61 years, are the defending national champions. Led by Richard Wortham and Mickey Reichenbach, Texas topped South Carolina, 5-1, in the title game.

Wortham, the winningest pitcher in collegiate history with a 48-6 career mark, was the left-hander on the all-

tournament pitching staff a year ago and Reichenbach was the tournament's most valuable player.

The only year Texas has not represented this district or region in Coach Cliff Gustafson's eight previous years at the Texas helm was in 1971 when Pan American took the trip to Omaha.

The Longhorns have been in the playoffs 24 times and are bidding for a nineteenth trip to the Series.

In head-to-head meeting with the field, Texas is 66-23-3 with Oklahoma and 9-1 vs. Lamar. Texas has never played Miami.

Lamar and Miami have never met. In

addition to its record with Texas, the Cardinals are 0-1 with Oklahoma. The only Oklahoma-Miami confrontation was the '74 World Series meeting.

Lamar won its second outright Southland Conference title this year and first trip to the NCAA playoffs. The Cardinals shared the SLC throne room with Louisiana Tech a year ago, but lost the NCAA berth in a playoff.

Lamar brings five 300-plus hitters to the tournament—all of them all-SLC selections. They are center fielder Harold Flynn (.367), third baseman Billy Wearden (.344), first baseman Rufus Cook (.326), right fielder Mike Laudig (.324) and second baseman Joe McCann (.304).

Lamar Coach Jim Gilligan is expected to start right-hander Rick Nesloney (8-1) against Texas' Wortham (12-1).

Oklahoma right-hander Ken Palmer (7-4) will oppose either Gavin Long (14-0) or Stan Jakubowski (9-4) for Miami.

The tournament festivities began Thursday with a noon luncheon for the teams at the Cibola Inn in Arlington. The luncheon was sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Texas Rangers' broadcaster Dick Risenhoover was the master of ceremonies with Ranger General Manager Dan O'Brien the featured speaker.

Tickets are available in advance for the entire tournament at a cost of \$12 each. Single games tickets will be sold at the gate for \$3 for adults and \$1 for students of all ages.

MIAMI (40-13)

Paul Hammonds
Richard Montoni
Randy Guerra
Dave Knott
Howie Shapiro
Billy Malpas
Hugo Rams
Pat Callahan
Gavin Long (14-0)

TEXAS (39-14)

Charles Proske
Karl Pagel
Wendell Hibbitt
Mickey Reichenbach
Garry Pyka
Rocky Thompson
Steve Day
Doug Duncan
Richard Wortham (12-1)

vs.

Centerfield
Rightfield
Leftfield
First base
Second base
Third base
Shortstop
Catcher
Pitcher

vs.

Centerfield
Rightfield
Leftfield
First base
Second base
Third base
Shortstop
Catcher
Pitcher

OKLAHOMA (59-16)

Gary Thweatt
Wayne Pechek
Terry Bogener
Kelly Snider
Keith Drumright
Greg Stitzner
Mike Cunico
Roger LaFrancois
Ken Palmer (7-4)

LAMAR (33-9)

Harold Flynn
Mike Laudig
Frank Romeo
Rufus Cook
Joe McCann
Billy Wearden
Randy Kucera
Ken Ahrens
Rick Nesloney (8-1)

NCAA Tourney Opens Tonight

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Cards Face Wortham

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NCAA South Central Regional Baseball Tournament



May 28-31, 1976
Arlington Stadium
Arlington, Texas
Program: 50 cents



Welcome to Arlington Stadium

The 1976 South Central Regional baseball tournament is sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and sponsored by the Arlington Sports Association, Inc., in cooperation with the City of Arlington and the University of Texas at Arlington. The Arlington Sports Association would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce of Arlington for sponsoring Thursday's pre-meet luncheon for the teams and their help to make the tournament a success.

Tournament Officials

Games Committee	Kal Segrist, Lubbock (Chairman) Dan O'Brien, Arlington Bill Reeves, Arlington Tom J. Vandergriff, Arlington
Tournament Director	Bob Stephens, Arlington
Public Address	Jeff Wolfskill, Arlington
Scorers	Tom Kimball, Dallas Dan Schimek, Arlington

Arlington Sports Association Officers

Tom J. Vandergriff	President and Board Chairman
Bob Stephens	Vice-President and Director
E. J. Wilemon	Vice-President, Treasurer and Director
Dixon W. Holman	Secretary and Director
Charles Ray CPA	Auditor and Director



1976 Tournament Schedule

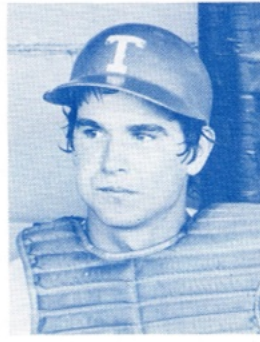




GARRY PYKA
Texas 2B



KARL PAGEL
Texas OF



DOUG DUNCAN
Texas C



CLIFF GUSTAFSON
Texas Head Coach

Texas Longhorns

INFIELDERS							1976 Statistics		
No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	B.A.	HR	RBI
1	Garry Pyka	R-R	5-11	165	Jr.	San Antonio	.298	2	27
3	Joe Ayers	R-R	5-7	170	Sr.	San Antonio	.276	0	10
4	Steve Day	R-R	5-10	165	Jr.	Lufkin	.229	0	17
9	Rocky Thompson	R-R	5-7	170	Jr.	San Antonio	.267	0	12
13	Keith Ferguson	L-R	6-1	190	Fr.	Carrollton	.250	0	0
22	Mickey Reichenbach	L-R	6-4	205	Jr.	Taylor	.242	2	40
28	Ted Wendlandt	L-R	6-2	185	Fr.	Austin	.167	0	0
OUTFIELDERS									
2	Johnny Olvera	R-R	5-7	170	Sr.	Brownsville	.230	0	13
6	Gerry Standridge	L-L	6-0	170	So.	Carrollton	.000	0	0
10	Jerry Jones	S-R	6-1	175	Jr.	Temple	.000	0	0
12	Rob Stramp	R-R	6-0	175	Sr.	Irving	.282	0	14
14	Mark Griffin	L-R	5-9	160	Sr.	Lubbock	.229	0	4
17	Charles Proske	R-R	5-10	175	Jr.	Brenham	.361	2	38
20	Wendell Hibbett	R-R	6-2	210	Jr.	Lafayette, La.	.311	7	31
25	Karl Pagel	L-L	6-2	200	Jr.	Phoenix, Ariz.	.310	8	40
CATCHERS									
5	Doug Duncan	R-R	6-0	185	Sr.	Dallas	.250	4	29
7	Howard Bushong	R-R	6-0	180	Sr.	Corpus Christi	.000	0	0
11	Ronnie Jacobs	R-R	6-0	185	Jr.	San Antonio	.148	0	2
PITCHERS							ERA	W-L	
15	Don Kainer	R-R	6-2	185	So.	Houston	3.40	7-3	
16	Bob Heuck	L-L	6-2	180	Fr.	San Antonio	2.64	2-3	
21	Kem Wright	R-R	6-3	190	Fr.	Paris	2.21	9-4	
23	Tony Brizzolara	R-R	6-4	215	So.	Beloit, Wisc.	2.58	4-1	
24	Richard Wortham	R-L	6-1	185	Sr.	Odessa	1.51	12-1	
27	Hollis Weiruscheske	R-R	5-8	160	So.	Austin	27.00	0-1	
30	Dan Steussy	R-R	6-0	180	So.	New Braunfels	3.60	0-0	

HEAD COACH: 18 Cliff Gustafson

ASSISTANT COACH: 26 Bill Bethea

'Horns Wortham Fights Back to Top

It would seem theatrical and sentimental to say that a year and a half ago Richard Wortham suffered a leg injury and lay in a hospital bed literally wondering if he would ever walk again. But he did.

And perhaps it would seem boastful to say that Richard Wortham, a senior lefthanded pitcher for the University of Texas at Austin, is the winningest pitcher in the history of college baseball. But he is.

Such has been the career of the 6-1, 185 pound southpaw from Odessa, Tex., who came to the Texas Longhorns after one of the most storied high school careers ever in Texas.

Wortham, who with a 12-1 record this year has an NCAA career mark of 48 wins against six losses, has been all of the above. In the autumn of his junior year, his career was almost ended.

As a member of the Cowboys, a UT service organization, Wortham was working loading some musical



Richard Wortham
... All-time leader

equipment on an elevator lift at the rear of Gregory Gymnasium.

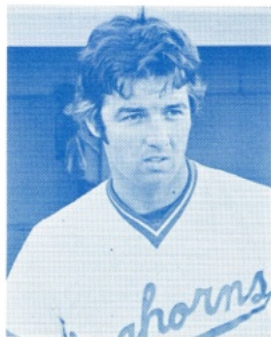
Halfway to the stage level, the lift broke, falling more than 20 feet with Wortham, several others, and all the equipment on it. Richard's left leg and right arm were severely injured. A muscle in the leg was severed.

He was rushed to the UT student health center where coincidentally, Texas' team orthopedic surgeon Jerry Julian was examining patients.

Julian and other doctors immediately operated, repairing the muscle. First fears were that Wortham might walk with a marked limp, others were that he might not be able to walk well at all. He was in a cast for weeks, and rehabilitated just in time to start his junior season.

For a number of varied reasons, Wortham was drafted very low by the professionals, despite a successful (15-1) junior record. He lost the first game in the College World Series for Texas to Arizona State.

And then, just when it looked as though the hard-luck-guy stories needed to be written in red ink for Wortham, it all changed. Suddenly Wortham was Texas' starting pitcher in the game for the national championship against South Carolina. In a brilliant performance, he pitched Texas to a 5-1 victory, striking out nine, walking only one and allowing just four hits.



MICKEY REICHENBACH
Texas 1B



KEM WRIGHT
Texas RHP



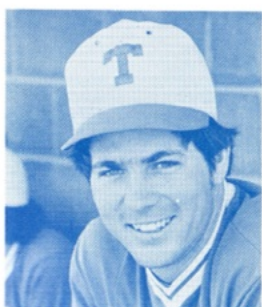
CHARLES PROSKE
Texas OF



WENDELL HIBBETT
Texas OF



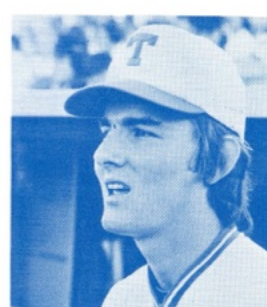
STEVE DAY
Texas SS



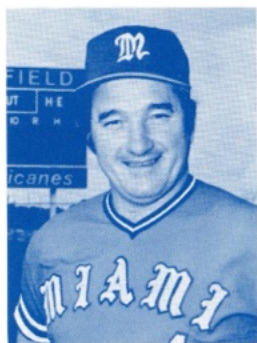
ROCKY THOMPSON
Texas 3B



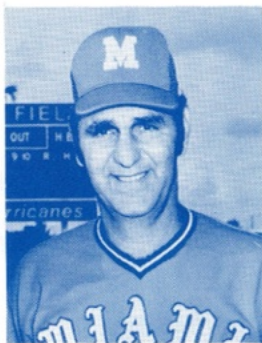
DON KAINER
Texas RHP



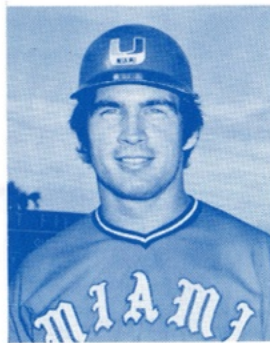
TONY BRIZZOLARA
Texas RHP



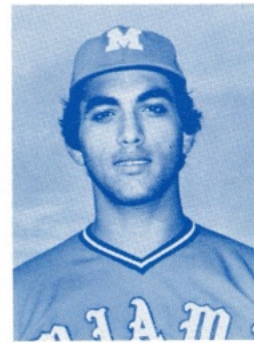
RON FRASER
Miami Head Coach



SKIP BERTMAN
Miami Asst. Coach



PAT CALLAHAN
Miami C



HUGO RAMS
Miami SS

Miami Hurricanes

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No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	B.A.	HR	RBI
2	Howie Shapiro	L-R	5-11	155	Fr.	Miami, Fla.	.252	1	25
3	Dino Gale	R-R	5-7	150	Fr.	Miami, Fla.	.125	0	2
4	Ernie Hernandez	R-R	5-10	165	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	.103	0	1
5	Hugo Rams	R-R	5-11	170	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	.212	1	21
10	Paul Hammonds	R-R	5-8	150	Sr.	Key West, Fla.	.251	0	26
28	David Knott	R-R	6-3	210	Jr.	Venice, Fla.	.290	3	34
30	Bill Malpas	R-R	5-10	170	Sr.	San Jose, Calif.	.291	2	30

OUTFIELDERS									
6	Richard Feldman	R-R	5-11	155	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	.233	0	25
11	Richard Montoni	R-R	6-1	195	So.	Naugatuck, Conn.	.301	5	43
12	Robert Feldman	R-R	5-11	155	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	.201	0	5
25	Randy Guerra	L-L	6-1	195	Fr.	Linden, N.J.	.282	5	56

CATCHERS									
9	Robert Gill	R-R	6-1	190	Fr.	Dowington, Pa.	.000	0	0
23	Pat Callahan	R-R	6-1	190	Jr.	Hollywood, Fla.	.320	1	30

PITCHERS								ERA	W-L
14	Luis Brande	R-R	6-2	185	Sr.	Miami, Fla.	2.90	0-0	
18	Gavin Long	R-R	6-3	175	Jr.	Daly City, Calif.	1.87	14-0	
19	Scott Paradise	L-L	6-2	210	Fr.	Marblehead, Mass.	16.20	0-0	
21	Bob Roth	R-R	6-1	180	Sr.	Kenilworth, Ill.	1.83	8-0	
27	Mark Batten	R-R	6-1	185	Fr.	Miami, Fla.	3.64	2-1	
29	Stan Jakubowski	R-R	5-11	175	Sr.	Union, N.J.	2.12	9-4	
32	Chris Lynch	R-R	6-1	190	Sr.	Miami, Fla.	4.59	3-4	
34	Augie Ruiz	L-L	6-0	185	Fr.	Kaiserslautern, Ger.	2.97	3-3	

HEAD COACH: 1 Ron Frasier

ASSISTANT COACHES:

15 Skip Bertman
8 Tom Holliday

Jakubowski Four-Year Miami Star

Senior Stan Jakubowski, one of the 20 finalists for the Gomez Plate award given annually to the best college baseball player in the nation, will be pitching for University of Miami in his fourth consecutive NCAA tournament.

The right hander from Union, N.J., has had four brilliant seasons for the Hurricanes and holds virtually every record at Miami, both for a season and career.

Jakubowski's overall career record of 41 wins against only 13 defeats was accomplished on a dazzling 1.77 earned run average. He has struck out 338 batters and walked just 145 men in 438 innings of action.

Stan had an excellent freshman campaign, winning seven and losing only once. He had a 2.20 ERA.

His sophomore year feats in 1974 earned him third team All-America honors as he captured a school record 16 decisions against three losses. His ERA was 1.46 and he had nine complete games. It was



Stan Jakubowski
... 41 career wins

his great pitching this season that led Miami in to the final round of the College World Series at Omaha.

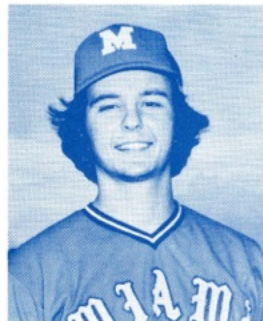
A year ago, Stan's 9-5 record and 1.65 did not reflect his real ability. Not only did two of the losses come when he allowed no earned runs in two games against Florida State, but sheer bad luck dogged him in two of his other three setbacks.

Trouble dogged Jakubowski at the start of his 1976 senior year when a minor injury and illness hit him just before the season opened. He did not attempt to pitch until the second week. Actually, it was mid-season before he hit his normal stride and he finished regular season play with a 9-4 mark and a 2.13 ERA.

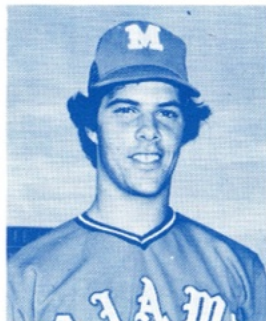
He added another dimension to his value by taking on relief action and picked up two valuable saves.

In 60 1/3 innings of NCAA post season play, he compiled a 2.05 earned run record, a figure which has dropped consistently since his one freshman year play-off appearance. He has fanned 39 and walked 15 in post season play.

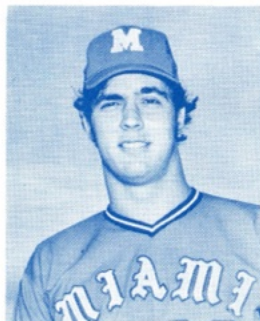
In 1974, he pitched Miami into the College World Series finals by taming Harvard, 4-1, and Oklahoma, 5-1, but ran into bad luck in the championship game against Southern California. Stan wound up a 7-3 loser, but just three of the runs were earned.



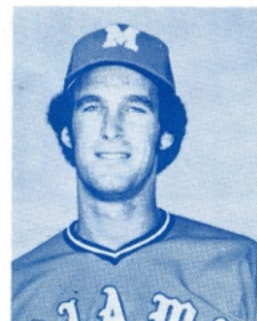
BILLY MALPAS
Miami 3B



HOWIE SHAPIRO
Miami 2B



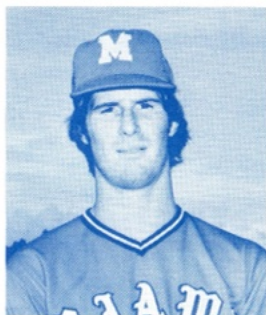
DAVID KNOTT
Miami 1B



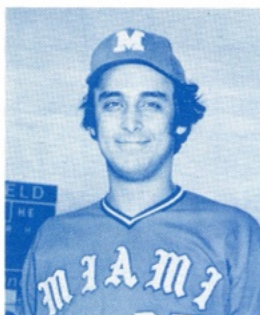
GAVIN LONG
Miami RHP



BOB ROTH
Miami RHP



RICK MONTONI
Miami OF



RANDY GUERRA
Miami OF



PAUL HAMMONDS
Miami SS-OF



ENOS SEMORE
Oklahoma Head Coach



ROGER LaFRANCOIS
Oklahoma C



GARY THWEATT
Oklahoma OF



KEN PALMER
Oklahoma RHP

Oklahoma Sooners

INFIELDERS

No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	1976 Statistics		
							B.A.	HR	RBI
2	Keith Drumright	L-R	5-10	170	Sr.	Springfield, Mo.	.352	0	53
3	Kelly Snider	L-L	6-0	194	Jr.	Springfield, Mo.	.284	6	64
4	Art Toal	R-R	6-1	187	Fr.	Staten Island, N.Y.	.298	1	14
5	Greg Stitzinger	R-R	6-0	190	Sr.	Long Beach, Calif.	.351	12	53
6	Mike Cunico	R-R	5-7	165	Jr.	Pueblo, Colo.	.262	1	24
23	Gary Krug	L-L	6-4	212	Jr.	Colorado Springs, Colo.	.316	6	40
27	Tim Holt	R-R	5-10	161	So.	Tulsa, Okla.	.333	0	6

OUTFIELDERS

No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	B.A.	HR	RBI
1	Gary Thweatt	L-L	5-10	150	Jr.	Cameron, Tex.	.345	1	32
7	Mark Rice	L-L	5-9	160	Fr.	Springfield, Mo.	.466	0	8
8	Wayne Pechek	L-L	5-11	165	Jr.	Pueblo, Colo.	.307	0	35
9	Terry Bogener	L-L	6-1	191	So.	Palmyra, Mo.	.354	3	60
17	Donald Morris	R-R	6-0	170	Fr.	Texarkana, Tex.	.324	1	8

CATCHERS

No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	B.A.	HR	RBI
12	Tommy Thompson	L-R	6-0	187	Fr.	Oklahoma City, Okla.	.387	1	16
22	Roger LaFrancois	L-R	6-2	205	So.	Jewett City, Conn.	.324	2	43

PITCHERS

No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	W-L	ERA
13	Ted Lair	R-R	6-0	182	Jr.	Chickasha, Okla.	1-0	4.90
16	Ken Palmer	R-R	6-1	180	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla.	7-4	3.34
18	Marty Kunkler	L-L	5-11	183	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.	10-5	2.62
19	Gary Brackeen	R-R	6-2	193	Fr.	Wichita Falls, Tex.	10-3	2.19
20	Curtis Voyles	R-R	6-4	162	Fr.	Oklahoma City, Okla.	6-0	2.71
21	Alex Kager	R-R	6-0	185	Fr.	Odessa, Tex.	7-0	1.83
25	George Frazier	R-R	6-5	195	Sr.	Springfield, Mo.	6-1	2.74
26	Mickey Lashley	R-R	6-3	187	Sr.	Bartlesville, Okla.	9-1	2.49

HEAD COACH: 24 Enos Semore

ASSISTANT COACH: 10 Gene Stephenson

Drumright Glad He Stayed at Oklahoma

For Oklahoma second baseman Keith Drumright, the 1976 season almost didn't happen. Drumright, a Springfield, Mo. senior, almost didn't play college ball for the Sooners. He seriously thought about sitting out his final campaign to play pro ball.

"Because of my age (21), I wasn't old enough to be drafted," said Drumright. "In order to play pro ball I would have had to sit out the first semester of school and hope to get drafted. 'That's been my goal, to play pro baseball. But I've had a good time at Oklahoma and Coach Semore really helped me. So, I decided to finish my career at OU. Plus, I've known other players who left early and got a bad deal.'"

Semore and the Sooners are glad the soft spoken Drumright decided to stick around the Norman campus this spring. Keith was the second leading hitter on the club with a .352 batting average. He led the Sooners, 59-16 for the campaign, in hits (96) and triples (7).

By playing the extra year Drumright was able to shatter school



Keith Drumright
... No regrets

records by the bushful. Keith holds the mark for games played (233), at bats (837), runs scored (180), hits (288), doubles (40) and stolen bases (79).

"I had a good career at Oklahoma and enjoyed the success our team had," explained Drumright. "We won the conference title three

times and if we win the Regional we'll have gone to the College World Series for the fourth straight time. That was our team goal at the beginning of the season to go back to Omaha and take the championship."

Drumright, a second team all-American selection as a sophomore, is up for another prestigious award. He is one of twenty seniors nominated for the Lefty Gomez Plate Award.

"Keith is the best college second baseman in the country," says Coach Enos Semore. "He's definitely a major league prospect if I've ever had one. He'd done a good job for four years. He has everything going for him. He has good speed, good hands and he's capable of doing it all. He doesn't hit the long ball but he doesn't have to. When he's playing aggressive, he's really tough."

The lone home run of Drumright's career came two years ago in Japan when Drumright was playing for the United States team. In the final game Drumright, 5-10, 170 pounds, hit a homer to give the United States the game and the series.



MARTY KUNKLER
Oklahoma LHP



MICKEY LASHLEY
Oklahoma RHP



GARY KRUG
Oklahoma 1B-DH



TERRY BOGENER
Oklahoma OF



GARY BRACKEEN
Oklahoma RHP



GREG STITZINGER
Oklahoma 3B



WAYNE PECHEK
Oklahoma OF



MIKE CUNICO
Oklahoma SS



JIM GILLIGAN
Lamar Head Coach



KEN AHRENS
Lamar C



FRANK ROMEO
Lamar OF



MIKE MORGAL
Lamar LHP

Lamar Cardinals

INFIELDERS							1976 Statistics		
No.	Name	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	B.A.	HR	RBI
1	Randy Kucera	R-R	5-11	140	Sr.	Wharton	.288	1	16
2	Louie Jones	R-R	5-8	150	So.	Freeport	.214	0	6
12	Joe McCann	R-R	5-10	172	Fr.	Elmhurst, N.Y.	.304	0	14
17	Jeff Martin	R-R	5-9	175	Fr.	Bellmore, N.Y.	.273	0	1
37	Billy Wearden	R-R	5-11	180	Sr.	Wharton	.344	3	35
38	Rufus Cook	L-L	6-2	200	Sr.	Silsbee	.326	1	30

OUTFIELDERS									
3	Brent Guidrey	R-R	5-8	153	Jr.	Port Arthur	.270	0	10
4	Rudy Terrasas	L-R	5-7	145	Jr.	Pasadena	.286	1	2
6	Bob Bobbitt	R-R	5-9	160	Fr.	Beaumont	.250	0	1
7	Mike Laudig	L-L	5-8	175	So.	Beaumont	.324	0	17
16	Harold Flynn	R-R	6-2	190	Jr.	Houston	.367	2	20
23	Frank Romeo	R-R	5-6	162	Sr.	Flushing, N.Y.	.257	4	20

CATCHERS									
14	Ken Ahrens	S-R	5-10	185	So.	Houston	.254	3	18
35	John Gilligan	R-R	6-2	190	Sr.	Bayside, N.Y.	.268	5	31

PITCHERS								ERA	W-L
9	Eddie Heppt	L-L	6-2	185	Fr.	Astoria, N.Y.	3.82	4-3	
21	Buddy Tibbs	R-R	6-3	185	Jr.	Groves	5.75	3-1	
26	Rick Nesloney	R-R	6-2	190	Jr.	Tuloso-Midway	2.95	8-1	
27	Jarvis Lucas	R-R	5-11	175	Jr.	LaMarque	1.65	1-1	
33	Steve Lang	R-R	6-0	190	So.	Nederland	3.38	2-0	
34	Mike Morgal	L-L	6-3	210	Fr.	Glen Cove, N.Y.	2.56	8-2	
36	Paul Touchstone	L-R	5-10	195	Jr.	LaMarque	1.70	6-1	

HEAD COACH: 25 Jim Gilligan

ASSISTANT COACH: 40 Phil Pate

Lamar's Gravy: Flynn Bats .367

Despite many contributors to Lamar University's most successful baseball season ever, the 1976 performance of fleet center-fielder Harold Flynn catches the most attention.

A product of Stephen F. Austin of Houston, Flynn put in two years at Alvin Junior College where he was spotted by Lamar coach Jim Gilligan.

Gilligan predicted Flynn would help the Cardinals because of his base-running ability and superb defensive play, but the Lamar tutor got more than he expected.

Flynn, a 6-2, 190-pounder who can get to first base in 3.4 seconds from the left-side of home plate, threw in some goodies by setting a school record with his Southland Conference leading .367 batting average.

To go with his record-setting average, Flynn also set Lamar season marks for runs scored (43), hits (54) and stolen bases (27 of 28 attempts).



Harold Flynn
... Cards' MVP

"We knew Flynn would help us just with his glove," declared Gilligan, "but everything he did at the plate was gravy. We've never had an outfielder that can go get the ball like he

can. He waits on balls that a lot of major leaguers can't catch."

Flynn played his leadoff role to the hilt, like a Maury Wills. He reached base 80 times one way or another and pilfered third base five times while getting caught just once. He also displayed power by slugging eight doubles, two triples and two home runs.

Followed most of the year by an entourage of major league scouts, Flynn's career had a dramatic change when he was prepping at Houston Austin, where he had batting marks of .403 and .419 in 1972 and 1973, respectively.

At that time he was a catcher, but after running a 9.8 in the 100-yard dash, it was decided a guy with that kind of speed shouldn't be squatting behind the plate.

If Flynn can continue his torrid on-base ratio, Lamar University—boasting a fine 33-9 record—will be a strong contender in the NCAA South Central regional playoff.



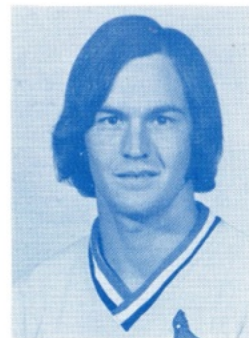
PAUL TOUCHSTONE
Lamar RHP



BILLY WEARDEN
Lamar 3B



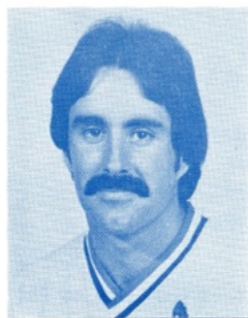
RANDY KUCERA
Lamar SS



JARVIS LUCAS
Lamar RHP



RICK NESLONEY
Lamar RHP



JOHN GILLIGAN
Lamar C-DH



RUFUS COOK
Lamar 1B



JOE McCANN
Lamar 2B

LAMAR**Numerical Roster**

- 1 Randy Kucera, ss
- 2 Louis Jones, if
- 3 Brent Guidry, of
- 4 Rudy Terrasas, of
- 6 Bob Bobbitt, of
- 7 Mike Laudig, of
- 9 Eddie Heppt, lhp
- 12 Joe McCann, if
- 14 Ken Ahrens, c
- 16 Harold Flynn, of
- 17 Jeff Martin, if
- 21 Buddy Tibbs, rhp
- 23 Frank Romeo, of
- 26 Rick Nesloney, rhp
- 27 Jarvis Lucas, rhp
- 33 Steve Lang, rhp
- 34 Mike Morgal, lhp
- 35 John Gilligan, c
- 36 Paul Touchstone, rhp
- 37 Billy Wearden, 3b
- 38 Rufus Cook, 1b

MIAMI**Numerical Roster**

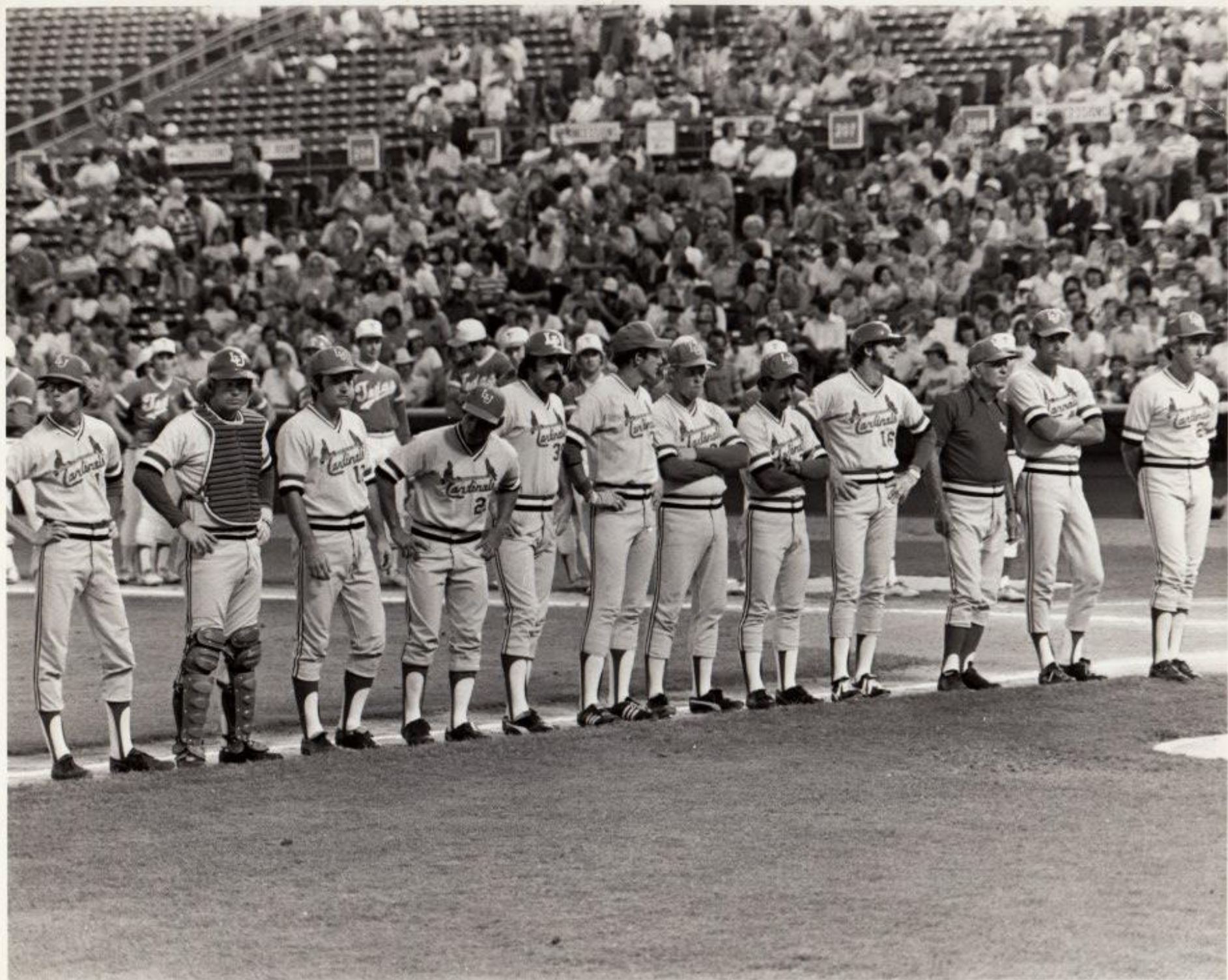
- 2 Howie Shapiro, 2b
- 3 Dino Gale, 2b
- 4 Ernie Hernandez, 3b
- 5 Hugo Rams, ss
- 6 Richard Feldman, of
- 9 Robert Gill, c
- 10 Paul Hammonds, ss-of
- 11 Richard Montoni, of
- 12 Robert Feldman, of
- 14 Luis Brande, rhp
- 18 Gavin Long, rhp
- 19 Scott Paradise, lhp
- 21 Bob Roth, rhp
- 23 Pat Callahan, c
- 25 Randy Guerra, lhp-of
- 27 Mark Batten, rhp
- 28 David Knott, 1b
- 29 Stan Jakubowski, rhp
- 30 Bill Malpas, 3b
- 32 Chris Lynch, rhp
- 34 Augie Ruiz, lhp

OKLAHOMA**Numerical Roster**

- 1 Gary Thweatt, of
- 2 Keith Drumright, 2b
- 3 Kelly Snider, 1b
- 4 Art Toal, if
- 5 Greg Stitzinger, ss
- 6 Mike Cunico, ss
- 7 Mark Rice, of
- 8 Wayne Pechek, of
- 9 Terry Bogener, of
- 12 Tommy Thompson, c
- 13 Ted Lair, rhp
- 16 Ken Palmer, rhp
- 17 Donald Morris, of
- 18 Marty Kunkler, lhp
- 19 Gary Brackeen, rhp
- 20 Curtis Voyles, rhp
- 21 Alex Kager, rhp
- 22 Roger LaFrancois, c
- 23 Gary Krug, 1b
- 25 George Frazier, rhp
- 26 Mickey Lashley, rhp
- 27 Tim Holt, 2b

TEXAS**Numerical Roster**

- 1 Garry Pyka, 2b
- 2 Johnny Olvera, of
- 3 Joe Ayers, 3b
- 4 Steve Day, ss
- 5 Doug Duncan, c
- 6 Gerry Standridge, of
- 7 Howard Bushong, c
- 9 Rocky Thompson, 3b
- 10 Jerry Jones, of
- 11 Ronnie Jacobs, c
- 12 Rob Stramp, of
- 13 Keith Ferguson, 3b
- 14 Mark Griffin, of
- 15 Don Kainer, rhp
- 16 Bob Heuck, lhp
- 17 Charles Proske, of
- 20 Wendell Hibbett, of
- 21 Kem Wright, rhp
- 22 Mickey Reichenbach, 1b
- 23 Tony Brizzolara, rhp
- 24 Richard Wortham, lhp
- 25 Karl Pagel, lhp
- 27 Hollis Weiruscheske, rhp
- 28 Ted Wendlandt, ss
- 30 Dan Steussy, rhp



SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
1976

Lamar falls 3-2 as

BY JOHN DEVILLIER

News Sports Staff

ARLINGTON — Lamar University, unheralded and unranked, led college baseball's defending national champions for 8 1/3 innings here Friday but the Texas Longhorns rallied for two runs in a 3-2 victory in the opening round of the NCAA's South Central Tournament.

A double in the ninth by Ken Pagel, followed by singles by Mickey Riechenbach and Wendell Hibbett ended righthander Rick Nesloney's mind-bending bid for an upset which would have tilted the Tower on the 40 Acres.

Texas catcher Doug Duncan switched on the orange light by hitting a 3-and-2 pitch off reliever Jarvis Lucas to score Riechenbach with the winning run.

The victory sends Texas against Oklahoma in tonight's feature in Arlington Stadium. The Cardinals will be struggling for survival at 2 p. m. against Miami. The Sooners belted the

Hurricanes 11-3 and if anybody is aking book, Oklahoma will probably will be favored over Texas in their second round match.

The reason is obvious: the Longhorns expended ace lefty Richard Wortham to beat Lamar, and it looked for a while like the 48-game winner wouldn't be around at the finish.

Wortham pitched his way out of a bases loaded jam in the first inning, surrendered two runs in the third, bailed out of trouble in the seventh and even got a scare when the Cardinals batted in the bottom of the ninth.

"I'm disappointed, what else can I say?" said Lamar coach Jim Gilligan. "We played a heck of a game but you have to give Texas credit, they came back when they needed to. Nesloney pitched good enough to win. Our defense was super but we would have helped him more with our sticks."

Gilligan wouldn't comment on a

seventh inning call by plate umpire Al Alford, when Lamar shortstop Randy Kucera was waved out at home. At the time, however, he violently protested that Kucera slid in under the throw by Pagel.

Cliff Gustafson, who has guided the Longhorns to nine straight Southwest Conference titles, said he was "definitely worried."

"We have a scrappy bunch and I knew we'd give them a good shot," Gustafson said. "It got down to our guys getting those clutch hits in the ninth."

There was speculation Gustafson might save Wortham for Oklahoma, a team with six lefthanded hitters but the Texas coach played a late hunch that turned out well.

Wortham also liked the ending. "I'm pleased with the way things turned out," he said. "I was tired in those late innings but I'll be able to pitch Sunday if they need me."

Saturday, May 29, 1976

THE NEWS, Port Arthur, Texas

Longhorns stampede late

What happened in the third when the Cardinals tagged him for two runs? "Pressing too hard, I guess," Wortham said.

The Longhorn mainstay walked Billy Wearden with two outs and Rufus Cook, who swings lefthanded, beat the percentages by tagging him for a double down the first base line. Designated hitter John Gilligan then rattled one off the left field fence, inches from the yellow screen which marks the foul line and both runners scored.

Nesloney, a junior from Tuloso-Midway, allowed only a lead off single to Rocky Thompson in the first inning and a bunt single to Hibbett in the third before retiring nine in a row.

Shortstop Steve Day, a .229 hitter batting last in the Texas lineup, ended the skein by tagging 0-and-2 pitch for a fifth inning home run. It was the Lufkin junior's first collegiate homer.

"I fattened it up, too much," grumbled

Nesloney, between innings. He went to work on a new can of Skoal and retired seven straight hitters with a little extra help from outfielder Brent Guidry, a former Port Arthur Jefferson player.

The defensive lift came in the sixth when Guidry grabbed Pagel's liner to right field and threw out Charles Proske, who had walked.

Wortham finished with a five hitter but his fate swung in the balance in the seventh when Kucera walked, Guidry singled to left and Wearden waited out a base on balls to load 'em up.

Cook flied to right field and Kucera, attempting to score after the catch, was out at home on the game's controversial play.

Nesloney's string ran out after he retired Poske on a grounder in the ninth. Pagel restored sagging Texas spirits with a double and Reichenbach hit a full count pitch between first and second to drive in the tying run.

When Hibbett followed with a single left, Gilligan waved in the sidewinder Lucas. Duncan hit a pitch to left for a go-ahead run and Hibbett was gunning down attempting a delayed steal home.

With two out in the bottom of the ninth Lamar outfielder Harold Flynn reached second on a throwing error by Day and Guidry walked on five pitches. The brought Gustafson to the mound for the third time. Wearden, who was on base four straight times via two singles and two walks, grounded to shortstop to force Guidry for the final out.

	Texas 3, Lamar 2			
Texas (40-14)	000	010	002-3	8
Lamar (35-14)	002	000	000-2	5

Batteries—Texas: Wortham and Duncan; Lamar: Nesloney, Lucas (9) and Ahrens.

HR—Day
2B—Cook, Gilligan, Thompson, Pagel
Duncan

WP—Wortham (13-1). LP—Nesloney (9-1)

Texas Rallies to Nip Lamar in Regional, 3-2

ARLINGTON (UPI) — Doug Duncan stroked a ninth inning double to score Mickey Reichenbach and lift second-ranked Texas to a 3-2 victory over upstart Lamar Friday in the first round of the NCAA Southcentral baseball regional playoff.

In the opener, No. 11 Oklahoma rocked third-ranked Miami of Florida 11-3 behind two run homers by Gary Krug and Greg Stitzinger.

Southwest Conference champion Texas, 40-14, will face Big Eight runner-up Oklahoma, 60-16, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the winners bracket of the double elimination event.

Southland Conference champion Lamar, 32-14, faces Miami at 2 p.m.

Lamar stunned the Longhorns with a two-run second inning, highlighted by John Gilligan's two RBI double. Texas shortstop Steve Day closed the margin with a fifth inning homerun, his first of the season.

In the ninth, Reichenbach singled in Karl Pagel who had doubled with one out. Lamar starter Rick Nesloney then gave up another single and gave way to reliever Jarvis Lucas.

Duncan then welcomed Lucas with his game winning double.

Richard Wortham, 13-1, struck out 10 and gave up five hits for the victory.

In the earlier matchup, Oklahoma pitcher pitched a six hitter.

UT clips Cardinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Tex. — Catcher Doug Duncan climaxed a last ditch ninth-inning rally by Texas with a tie-breaking double to lead the defending national champion Longhorns to a 3-2 victory over scrappy Lamar in the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament Friday night.

Oklahoma, now 60-16, defeated Miami, Fla., 11-3 in the first game of the doubleheader.

Texas-OU

Oklahoma will play Texas, 40-14, Saturday night in the second game of another doubleheader.

Miami, 40-14, tackles Lamar, 35-14, Saturday afternoon with the loser being eliminated from the tournament.

Lamar's Rick Nesloney allowed only four hits through eight innings as Lamar took a 2-1 lead into the ninth.

But with one out, Karl Pagel doubled and Mickey Reichenbach singled to tie the game.

Wendell Hibbitt then singled and Nesloney was replaced by Jarvis Lucas before Duncan doubled to put Texas ahead.

Wortham

Richard Wortham, who pushed his NCAA record for career victories to 49,

Texas	000 010 002—3 8 2
Lamar	002 000 000—2 5 0

Wortham and Duncan. Nesloney, Lucas (9) and Ahrens. W—Wortham, 13-1. L—Nesloney, 9-3. HR—Texas, Day (1). A: 4,400.

Miami	200 010 000—3 6 3
Oklahoma	302 222 00x—11 13 1

Jakubowski, Ruiz (4), Lynch (6), Brande (8) and Callahan; Palmer and LaFrancois. W—Palmer, 8-4. L—Jakubowski, 9-5. HR—Miami, Montoni (6). Oklahoma, Krug (7); Stitzinger (13).

struck out 10 and allowed only five Lamar hits.

With two outs in the third inning, Lamar's Billy Wearden walked, one of seven free passes Wortham allowed, and Rufus Cook and Gilligan doubled back-to-back to plate two runs.

Steve Day, a .229 hitter, cut Lamar's lead to 2-1 in the fifth with a home run over the left field fence.

Lamar threatened to up its lead in the seventh, loading the bases with one out, but Pagel threw Lamar's Randy Kucera out at the plate when he attempted to score on a fly ball.

NCAA Baseball at Arlington, Edinburg

Texas Threatened

ARLINGTON (UPI) —

Defending national champion Texas opens its quest for a second straight NCAA baseball title Friday, but the Longhorns are in jeopardy of not even making it out of the playoffs.

Texas captured its 12th straight Southwest Conference title this year, but enter the NCAA tournament without the overpowering pitching that carried them to the national crown a year ago.

Joining Texas (39-14) in the four-team, double elimination tournament at Arlington Stadium will be Miami (40-13), Big Eight Conference runner-up Oklahoma (59-16) and Southland Conference champion Lamar (35-13).

Miami will face Oklahoma in the opening game Friday night and Texas tangles with Lamar in the second contest.

The pitching assignments in the first round find Dan Jakubowski (9-4) starting for the Hurricane against Oklahoma's Ken Palmer (7-4). Texas ace Richard Wortham (12-1), the winningest pitcher in college history with a 48-6 career record, will go

against Lamar's Rick Nesloney (8-1).

Oklahoma boasts a .322 team batting average with seven starters hitting more than .300. Terry Boegner paced the team this season with a .354 mark.

Oklahoma has stolen 163 bases out of 183 attempts this season.

Hurricanes storm Lamar

BY JOHN DEVILLIER
News Sports Staff

ARLINGTON — Following Texas' lead, the Miami Hurricanes went with their best pitcher here Saturday and knocked the Lamar University Cardinals out of the South Central NCAA tournament, 6-0.

Gavin Long, a 14 game winner and never a loser during the regular season, hurled six innings of three-hit ball and Mark Batten gave up only one hit and a walk while preserving the shutout.

Miami coach Ron Fraser said he pulled Long to save his strong right arm for possible use Sunday when the Hurricanes return to action against the loser of Saturday night's Oklahoma-Texas feature.

"We're back in this thing as of right now," said Fraser, whose team was bombed 11-3 by Oklahoma in an opener Friday.

Texas almost duplicated its ninth inning heroics against Oklahoma when Karl Pagel fouled one out of the park with two aboard. He doubled on the next pitch to knock in a run but Sooner reliever George Frazier struck out Garry Pyka and Mark Griffin to hand the Longhorns, a 3-2 defeat, only their second loss ever in regional competition.

Lamar was the first team evicted from the double elimination meet. The Southland champion Cardinals lost Friday to a two-run rally in the ninth by Texas, 3-2.

That his Redbirds saw perhaps the best two pitchers in the meet was a bit of

irony that did not go unnoticed by Lamar coach Jim Gilligan.

"How do you like that?" he asked. "Here we are, the only unranked team in the meet and we face (Richard) Wortham the first game and Long the second game. I wonder if there's ever been a meet where the underdogs saw two guys like that back-to-back?"

Texas went with Wortham in a strategical move but for Miami the selection of Long was born of sheer necessity. Oklahoma shelled three Hurricane pitchers for 13 hits in the opening game and the nation's third-ranked collegiate team had its back to the wall Saturday.

"I'm disappointed we didn't do better," Gilligan said of Lamar's first tournament appearance. "We hate to go out like this. But it's been a good year — one we can build on. We'll be back, I assure you."

Gilligan plans to depart from here to begin a recruiting sojourn which includes high school playoff games, tryout camps and his annual swing through the east. "We have located some good ones and we have a shot at them," he said.

Miami, No. 3 behind Arizona and Texas, picked at Paul Touchstone for nine hits and combined them with swift base running to put the Cardinals packing for a return trip to Beaumont.

"We're a running team," said Fraser, "when we run like we did in this game, we're alive." The Hurricanes' output against Touchstone included an infield single by Howie Shapiro, who also had

one stolen base. Another exponent of speed was Robert Feldman, who stole two bases. One of Feldman's thefts came in the fourth when he dashed home while Shapiro was caught in a rundown between first and second.

Not all of Miami's runs were so dramatic. The Floridians got three in the third inning. Cardinal outfielder Mike Laudig misjudged a wind blown fly by Hugo Rams and it fell in for a two-run double.

Rick Montoni followed with a sacrifice fly.

Long got strike outs to end four innings and two others were terminated by double plays. It was only the second time all year that Lamar has been goose-egged.

"I'm sure there was an emotional letdown after the way Texas beat us Friday," said Gilligan. "We gave Miami our best but it really wasn't our best at all."

Long walked two and fanned seven in his six inning stint. Only Rufus Cook, John Gilligan and Brent Guidry nipped him. Laudig had inconsequential hit off Batten in the eighth to spoil an otherwise spotless relief appearance.

Miami, making its fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA playoffs, is 41-14 for the year. Lamar closed its best campaign with a 35-15 record.

Miami 6 Lamar 0
Lamar (35-15) 000 000 000—0 4 9
Miami 003 200 10x—6 9 2
Batteries—Lamar: Touchstone and Ahrens;
Miami: Long, Batten (7) and Callahan
2B—Rams, Malpas and Knott.
WP—Long (15-0). LP—Touchstone (6-2)

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Catcher Doug Duncan climaxed a last ditch ninth-inning rally by Texas with a tie-breaking double to lead the defending national champion Longhorns to a 3-2 victory over scrappy Lamar in the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament Friday night.

Oklahoma, now 60-16, defeated Miami, Fla., 11-3 in the first game of the doubleheader.

Oklahoma will play Texas, 40-14, tonight in the second game of another doubleheader. Miami, 40-14, tackles Lamar, 35-14, this afternoon with the loser being eliminated from the tournament.

Miami Taps Lamar, 6-0

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — Miami's Gavin Long won his 15th straight game Saturday, leading the Hurricane to a 6-0 drubbing of Lamar (Tex.) University in the NCAA South-central baseball tournament.

Texas met Oklahoma in the nightcap.

Miami, which dropped its opener to Oklahoma, is now 1-1 in the double elimination tournament. The loss eliminated Lamar, which dropped its opener to Texas.

Long struck out seven and had a three hitter going until he was relieved in the seventh by Mike Batten.

The third inning was a disaster for Lamar after Paul Touchstone gave up four hits and three runs to the Hurricane.

Miami shortstop Hugo Rams opened the drive with a double. Howie Shapiro then beat out an infield single and Billy Malpas plated the two with a double.

Randy Guerra singled and Rick Montoni drove in the third run with a sacrifice fly.

Miami picked up two more runs in the fourth and one in the seventh to ice the contest.

Lamar	000 000 000—0 4 0
Miami	003 200 10x—6 9 2

Touchstone and Ahrens; Long, Batten (7) and Clanahan. WP—Long (15-0); LP—Touchstone (6-2). HRs—none.

Shutout seals Lamar's fate

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Gavin Long won his 15th game without a loss this season, pitching six shutout innings Saturday to lead Miami, Fla., to a 6-0 victory over Lamar University that eliminated the Cardinals from the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament.

Long allowed only three hits and two walks and struck out seven in the six innings he pitched. His victory placed him only two games away from the NCAA record of 17 triumphs without a loss set by Jim Gideon of Texas last year.

Long, a junior right-hander, was replaced in the seventh in-

ning by freshman Mark Batten, who completed the shutout, allowing only one hit with four strikeouts over the final three innings. That gave Miami pitching a combined four-hitter with 11 strikeouts.

Miami put away the game away with three runs in the third and two more in the fourth. Billy Malbas highlighted the third frame off loser Paul Touchstone with a two-run double, a line drive off Lamar rightfielder Mike Laudig's glove.

In the fourth, David Knott doubled and scored on a single by Robert Feldman, who scored when Howie Shapiro

was caught stealing at second base.

Shapiro, Feldman and Randy Guerra led Miami's nine-hit attack with two safeties each.

Miami Pops Cards In NCAA Playoffs

ARLINGTON, Tex AP — Gavin Long won his 15th game without a loss this season, pitching six shutout innings Saturday to lead Miami, Fla., to a 6-0 victory over Lamar University that eliminated the Cardinals from the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament.

Miami, now 41-14, will meet on Sunday the loser of Saturday night's game between Oklahoma and Texas. The winner of the first game Sunday will meet the Texas-Oklahoma winner in Sunday's second game.

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Shapiro, Feldman and Randy Geurra led Miami's nine-hit attack with two safeties each.

Lamar's best threat of the game came in the sixth inning when Billy Wearden walked and Rufus Cook singled with one out, but Long induced two fly balls to end the inning.



Hurricanes Eliminate Lamar From Tourney

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Lamar's best threat of the game came in the sixth inning when Billy Wearden walked and Rufus Cook singled with one out, but Long induced two fly balls to end the inning.

Longhorns, Sooners Advance In Playoffs

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — Doug Duncan stroked a ninth inning double to score Mickey Reichenbach and lift second-ranked Texas to a 3-2 victory over upstart Lamar Friday in the first round of the NCAA Southcentral baseball regional playoff.

In the opener, No. 11 Oklahoma rocked third-ranked Miami of Florida 11-3 behind two run homers by Gary Krug and Greg Stitzinger.

Southwest Conference champion Texas, 40-14, will face Big Eight runner-up Oklahoma, 60-16, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the winners bracket of the double elimination event. Southland Conference champion Lamar, 35-14, faces Miami at 2 p.m.

Lamar stunned the Longhorns with a two-run second inning, highlighted by John Gilligan's two RBI double. Texas shortstop Steve Day closed the margin with a fifth inning homerun, his first of the season.

In the ninth, Reichenbach singled in Karl Pagel who had doubled with one out. Lamar

starter Rick Nesloney then gave up another single and gave way to reliever Jarvis Lucas.

Duncan then welcomed Lucas with his game winning double.

Richard Wortham, 13-1, struck out 10 and gave up five hits for the victory.

In the earlier matchup, Oklahoma pitcher pitched a six hitter.

Palmer ran into early trouble, giving up a two-run homer by Richard Montoni in the top of the first, but the Oklahoma ace settled down and gave up only four more hits through the next eight innings.

Krug, who drove in four runs during the game, lined his shot out of Ranger Stadium in the third inning. Stitzinger, who had three RBIs for the game, added his in the sixth.

Miami starter Stan Jakubowski yielded six runs in the first three innings and was given the loss.

Miami was ranked No. 3 in the nation entering the tournament while Oklahoma was ranked 11th.

NCAA Baseball

Horns, Sooners Advance

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Catcher Doug Duncan climaxed a last ditch ninth-inning rally by Texas with a tie-breaking double to lead the defending national champion Longhorns to a 3-2 victory over scrappy Lamar in the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament Friday night.

Oklahoma, now 60-16, defeated Miami, Fla., 11-3 in the first game of the doubleheader.

Oklahoma will play Texas, 40-1, Saturday night in the second game of another doubleheader. Miami, 40-14, tackles Lamar, 35-14, Saturday afternoon with the loser being eliminated from the tournament.

Lamar's Rick Nesloney allowed only four hits through eight innings as Lamar took a 2-1 lead into the ninth. But with one out, Karl Pagel doubled and Mickey Reichenbach singled to tie the game. Wendell Hibbitt then singled and Nesloney was replaced by Jarvis Lucas before Duncan doubled to put Texas ahead.

Richard Wortham, who pushed his NCAA record for career victories to 49, struck out 10 and allowed only five Lamar hits. With two outs in the third inning, Lamar's Billy Wearden walked, one of seven free passes Wortham allowed, and Rufus Cook and Gilligan doubled back-to-back to plate two runs.

Steve Day, a .229 hitter, cut Lamar's lead to 2-1 in the fifth with a home run over the left field fence.

Lamar threatened to up its lead in the seventh, loading the bases with one out, but Pagel threw Lamar's Randy Kucera out at the plate when he attempted to score on a fly ball.

Rocky Thompson had two of Texas' eight hits while Wearden was two for three for Lamar.

Wortham is now 13-1 for the season while Nesloney dropped to 9-3.

Longhorns saved by thunderstorm

ARLINGTON, Tex. (UPI) — One of those typically violent springtime thunderstorms showed up just in time for the Texas Longhorns Sunday night.

Without it the defending national champion Longhorns would have been eliminated from the NCAA South Central playoffs and Oklahoma would have earned a berth in the College World Series.

As it is, the teams must return to water-logged Arlington Stadium today, weather permitting, and resume a game that stands 5-5 with Texas batting in the top of the ninth.

If Oklahoma wins, the Sooners will advance to the national tournament. But if Texas prevails, the teams will come back tonight for the game that will decide the College World Series representative.

Texas, which had lost to Oklahoma Saturday night in the double-elimination tournament, trailed Oklahoma 5-3 going into the eighth. And it was just then that the fringes of the storm arrived in the form of strong northerly winds which blew from home plate to center field — just the opposite from what they had been earlier.

And those gusts turned what would have been an ordinary fly ball by Mickey Reichenbach into a wind-blown two-run homer that tied the game. Without that homer, Texas would have still trailed when the deluge came moments later and would have lost the game.

Oklahoma coach Enos Semore was disappointed the game was stopped. "I was hoping we could finish it up," Semore said. "I thought the umpires were a little quick to stop play and we might have could played a little more."

South Central Regional

Sooners, Texas Win In First Round

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Oklahoma and Texas meet halfway between Norman, Okla., and Austin annually for a football game, and tonight they will be doing the same thing for a crucial college baseball playoff.

The Sooners, with seven .300 plus hitters in their lineup, overpowered Miami of Florida 11-3 Friday and Texas needed a last-ditch comeback to defeat unheralded Lamar University 3-2 in the first round of the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament to set up tonight's Arlington Stadium clash.

Lamar and Miami met in an afternoon game, with the loser falling out of the double elimination tournament.

Gary Krug and Greg Stitzinger combined for two homers and seven runs batted in as Oklahoma rocked Miami ace Stan Jakubowski and three other pitchers for 13 hits in Friday's opener.

Krug singled off the left field wall for two runs and Stitzinger added a sacrifice fly as Oklahoma scored three runs in the first inning to overcome a two-run homer by Miami's Richard Montoni.

Krug added a two-run homer in the third inning to start a string of four consecutive frames in which the Sooners tallied twice. In the sixth, Stitzinger had a two-run blast, his 13th of the season.

Ken Palmer, 8-4, pitched a six-hitter for the Big Eight runner-up Sooners, now 60-16 for the season.

"I was really surprised with the margin against Miami," said Oklahoma Coach Enos Semore. "Jakubowski is a better

pitcher than that, but he was missing tonight and that hurt him. I was pleased with the way we hit the ball—we were aggressive and we needed to do that."

Jakubowski has 41 career victories for Miami, but he allowed six runs on six hits and four walks in just three innings. The senior righthander flew to Union, N.J., after the game for his wedding tonight. If Miami advances to the tournament finals Monday, he will return to Texas to pitch that game.

Texas, defending national champion and this year's Southwest Conference winner, came within two outs of losing although it had NCAA career victories record holder Richard Wortham on the mound.

Wortham, now 13-1 for the season with 49 career triumphs at Texas, allowed a two-run double in the third inning to John Gilligan, brother of Lamar Coach Jim Gilligan.

Steve Day hit a solo homer for the Longhorns in the fifth inning, but Texas still trailed 2-1 going into the ninth.

Lamar righthander Rick Nesloney tamed the Longhorns on four hits through eight innings but Texas doubled that output in the ninth to win it.

Mickey Reichenbach's single off Nesloney tied the score and a double by Doug Duncan plated the winning run.

Wortham, who struck out 10 and allowed five hits and seven walks, held Lamar in the bottom of the ninth despite an error and a walk.

Lamar, now 35-14, is the Southland Conference champion, but the Cardinals are unranked nationally.

Texas, Oklahoma Take Wins in Region Meet

ARLINGTON, Tex. (AP) — Catcher Doug Duncan climaxed a last ditch ninth-inning rally by Texas with a tie-breaking double to lead the defending national champion Longhorns to a 3-2 victory over scrappy Lamar in the NCAA South Central regional baseball tournament Friday night.

Oklahoma, now 60-16, defeated Miami, Fla., 11-3 in the first game of the doubleheader.

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Lamar threatened to up its lead in the seventh, loading the bases with one out, but Pagel threw Lamar's Randy Kucera out at the plate when he attempted to score on a fly ball.

Rocky Thompson had two of Texas' eight hits while Wearden was two for three for Lamar.

Wortham is now 13-1 for the season while Nesloney dropped to 9-3.

Krug rocked Miami ace Stan Jakubowski with a long single off the left field wall in the first inning to score two runs. He added two more RBIs in the third frame on a 355-foot homer over Arlington Stadium's right field fence.

Stitzinger had a sacrifice fly in the first inning. In the sixth he hit his 13th homer of the season over the left field wall following Krug's third hit to give the Sooners an 11-3 lead.

First Game
 Miami 200 010 000-3 6 3
 Oklahoma 302 222 000-11 13 1
 Jakubowski, Ruiz (4), Lynch (6), Brande (8) and Callahan, Palmer and LaFrancois. W-Palmer, 8-4. L-Jakubowski, 9-5. HR-Miami, Montoni (6). Oklahoma, Krug (7); Stitzinger (13).

Second Game
 Texas 000 010 002-3 8 2
 Lamar 002 000 000-2 2 0
 Wortham and Duncan. Nesloney, Lucas (9) and Ahrens. W-Wortham, 13-1. L-Nesloney, 9-3. HR-Texas, Day (1). A: 4,400.

OU Defeats Defending Champs In South Central Regionals, 3-2

ARLINGTON, Tex. — Oklahoma stayed unbeaten in the NCAA South Central Regional baseball tournament Saturday night by defeating defending national champion Texas 3-2 behind the clutch relief pitching of senior George Frazier.

Texas, 40-15, will play Miami, Fla., 41-14, Sunday afternoon with the loser being eliminated from the tournament and the winner tackling Oklahoma, 61-16, Sunday night.

If the first game winner also beats the Sooners, then a championship contest will be held Monday night, with the winner advancing to the College World Series at Omaha.

Miami eliminated Lamar, 35-15, Saturday with a 6-0 victory as Gavin Long pitched six shutout innings to win his 15th game of the season without a setback.

Oklahoma starter Marty Kunkler had a 3-1 lead and was sailing along with a two hitter with seven strikeouts through five innings when Texas loaded the bases with no outs on Rocky Thompson's second single of the game and two walks.

Oklahoma Coach Enos Semore then brought in Frazier, who struck out Wendell Hibbitt and got Doug Duncan to hit into an inning-ending double play.

Frazier had not allowed a hit from the sixth until the ninth, when Texas struck for one run. Mickey Reichenbach doubled, Hibbitt struck out and Duncan walked before Karl

Pagel doubled to score one run with one out. But Frazier then struck out Garry Pyka and pinchhitter Mark Griffin, his sixth strikeout, to end the game.

Kelly Snider gave Oklahoma a 1-0 lead in the first inning with a run-producing double over the centerfielder's head into the teeth of a strong wind. Wayne Peczek singled home another Sooner run in the second and Greg Stitzinger bounced an RBI double over the centerfield fence in the fifth frame.

Texas' only run off Kunkler came in the third inning on a single by Thompson and a double by Charles Proskie.

Bob Hueck pitched the final seven and two-thirds innings for Texas in relief of Ken Wright, allowing only one run and five hits.

A regional playoff record at Arlington Stadium of 7,258 watched the two rivals.

Long allowed only three hits and two walks and struck out seven in the six innings he pitched. His victory placed him only two games away from the NCAA record of 17 triumphs without a loss set by Jim Gideon of Texas last year.

Miami put away the game away with three runs in the third and two more in the fourth. Billy Malbas highlighted the third frame off loser Paul Touchstone with a two-run double, a line drive off Lamar rightfielder Mike Laudig's glove.

In the fourth, David Knott doubled and scored on a single by Robert Feldman, who scored when Howie Shapiro was caught stealing at second base.

Shapiro, Feldman and Randy Guerra led Miami's nine-hit attack with two safeties each.

Lamar's best threat of the game came in the sixth inning when Billy Wearden walked and Rufus Cook singled with one out, but Long induced two fly balls to end the inning.



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA right fielder, Wayne Peczek, tries to steal third but is checked and held on second base by University of Texas shortstop, Steve Day, in the second inning of play. The action occurred Saturday night at Arlington Stadium, Arlington, Texas in the

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) South Central Regional Baseball Tournament. In all, eight NCAA regionals are being held this weekend, with the winners advancing to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. (AP Wirephoto)

(See AGGIES, Page 28)

Sports

Joe Kammlah Sports Editor

Sooners Nudge Texas, Reach Tourney Finals

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LU Baseball Reunion revives spirit of 1976

Lamar's 1976 team, the first Cardinal baseball group to represent the university in NCAA Tournament play, will be special honorees at the third Lamar Baseball Reunion Friday.

The reunion begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Beaumont Hilton ballroom. A banquet and auction starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, with the reunion featuring a scramble golf tournament at Bayou Din Golf Club.

Also honored at Friday's banquet will be longtime volunteer assistant coach Al Vincent. The former major-league coach and Texas League manager helped Lamar's baseball program 17 years before calling it quits after the 1989 season.

The 1976 Cardinals stormed to a 35-13 regular-season record, setting a then school record for victories and capturing the Southland Conference championship. In the NCAA Central Regional at Arlington Stadium, Lamar dropped a 3-2 heartbreaker to the University of Texas in the first round, then bowed out of the tourney with a 6-0 loss to the University of Miami.

Outfielders Harold Flynn and Mike Laudig, first baseman Rufus Cook, second baseman Joe McCann, third baseman Billy Wearden and pitcher Paul Touchstone earned all-confer-

ence recognition.

☐ More sports, **page 12C.**

Flynn led the Cardinals in batting with a .349 average. Wearden hit .323 and Laudig .306. Touchstone posted a 6-2 record and 2.17 earned-run average, pitching five complete games in eight starts.

Rick Nesloney, the hardluck loser to Texas, had a 9-3 record and 3.34 ERA. He hurled two shutouts and led the staff in strikeouts with 65.

Other members of the team were catcher Ken Ahrens, pitchers Eddie Heppt, Mike Carvell, Steve Lang, Jarvis Lucas, Mike Morgal and Buddy Tibbs; third baseman Jeff Martin, shortstops Louie Jones and Randy Kucera, outfielders Bob Bobbitt, Brent Guidry, Frank Romero and Rudy Terrasas; and designated hitter John Gilligan, brother of the team's coach, Jim Gilligan.

Jim Gilligan earned Coach of the Year honors by the Texas Sports Writers Association. Under his guidance, the 1976 team reeled off 16 straight victories and executed a still-standing school record three triple plays.

Funds raised from the banquet and auction go toward the endowment of a baseball scholarship named for Vincent, who is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and Lamar Cardinal Hall of Honor.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Lamar hosts former players this weekend

BEAUMONT – With a battle for first place on the line this weekend against Stephen F. Austin, the Lamar baseball team will welcome in a number of former players for the annual Lamar Alumni Weekend at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

"I think this is just a phenomenal chance for current and former Cardinals to come together around Lamar University," said Corey Troxell, a spokesman for the Lamar University Baseball Players Association. "They can come together and tell some of the old stories. It also lets us build on our family atmosphere here because a lot of the guys haven't seen each other in years, much less met their families."

The weekend's festivities will begin with a golf outing on Friday afternoon before the former Cards make their return to Vincent-Beck at 6:30 p.m. for the first game of the weekend. Friday will also feature an alumni and parent tailgate at the ball park.

On Saturday, players from the 1973-78 teams will be honored prior to the 2 p.m. first pitch, and there will be a reception for them in the left field picnic area.

The Cards were a dominant force in the mid-70s, running off 35 or more wins from 1976-78 and taking home Southland titles from 1975-77.

"It was quite an era for us, and this was the group that really got us going," LU head coach Jim Gilligan said, nodding towards a photo of the 1975 team on his office wall. "We just won a lot, and that's what I remember about these guys. This is going to be a very special weekend for me, and hopefully, we'll get a few wins for them."

"Coaching on this end of a career builds up so many memories," the 36-year skipper added. "I've built up so many memories of great players and great people, and having this many guys coming back at one time is something that I'm really looking forward to."

Following the game, the LUBPA will hold its annual banquet at the MCM Elegante, and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

The Cards and Lumberjacks will close out the series on Sunday at 1 p.m.

4/27/13

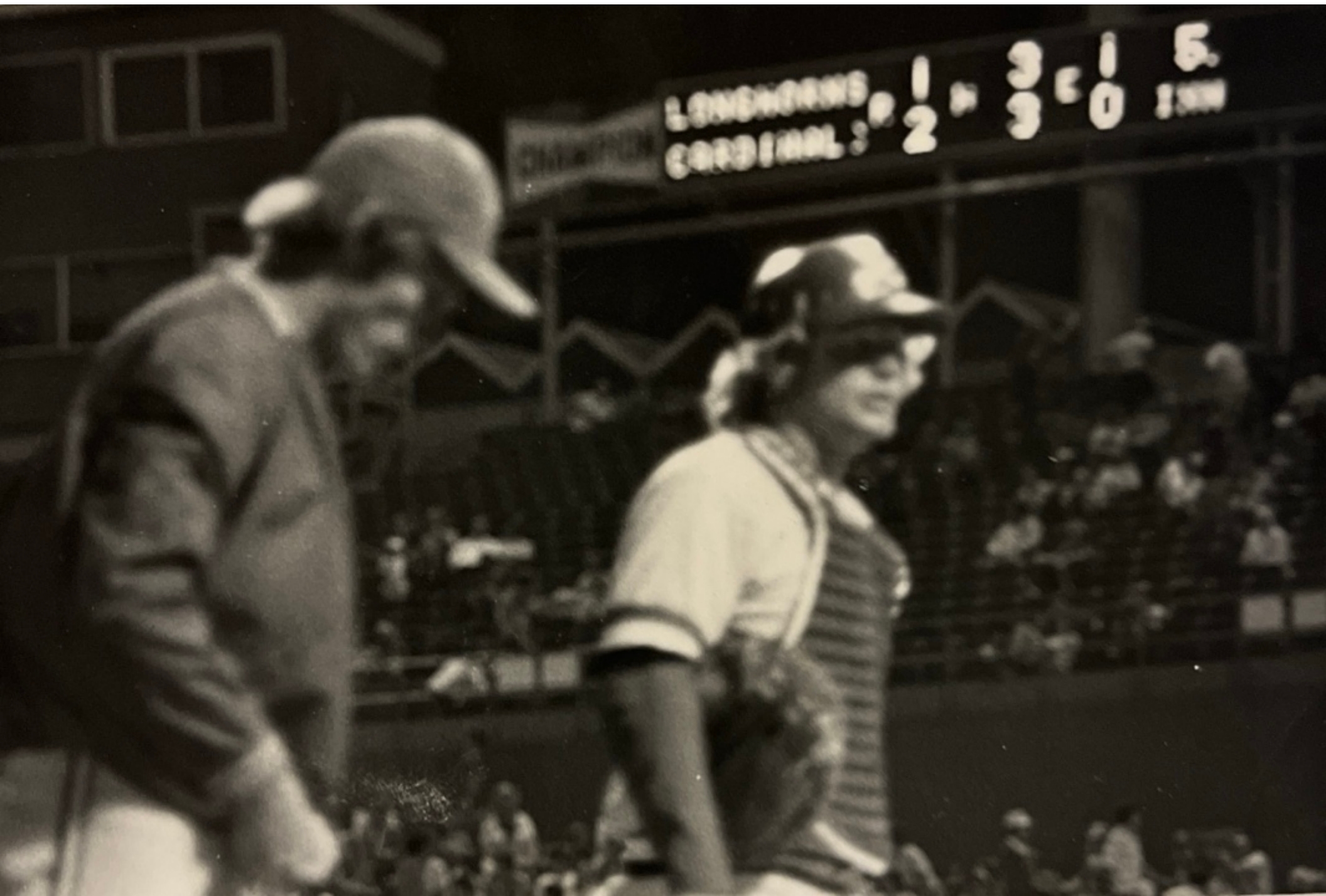








Longtime Assistant Al Vincent in Familiar Dugout Pose





1976 Cardinals at NCAA Regional in Arlington

LAMAR IN NCAA PLAYOFFS

1985

(At Disch-Falk Field, Austin, TX)

Oklahoma 9, Lamar 1

Lamar 4, LSU 3

Lamar 10, Houston 9

Lamar 7, Oklahoma 5

Texas 10, Lamar 2

1984

(At Disch-Falk Field, Austin, TX)

Texas 6, Lamar 0

Lamar 4, Oklahoma 3

Lamar 10, Nevada-Las Vegas 5

Texas 6, Lamar 5 (10 innings)

1981

(At Disch-Falk Field, Austin, TX)

Lamar 6, Stanford 5

Texas 3, Lamar 2

Stanford 9, Lamar 1

1979

(At Disch-Falk Field, Austin, TX)

Lamar 3, Brigham Young 2

Texas 6, Lamar 4

Brigham Young 7, Lamar 4

1977

(At Arlington Stadium, Arlington, TX)

Miami (OH) 1, Lamar 0

University of New Orleans 5, Lamar 2

1976

(At Arlington Stadium, Arlington, TX)

Texas 3, Lamar 2

Miami (FL) 6, Lamar 0

Lamar, Miami Pull Surprises Before Fading In NCAA Action

By RANDY CUMMINGS

By the time Saturday night had rolled into Arlington Stadium, memories of Lamar and Miami were long past. All the eyes were focused on the Texas-Oklahoma battle which was to take place that evening.

That game eventually drew a NCAA regional tournament record crowd into the stands and was to be the first of three more times that the rival state schools would meet in the South Central baseball tournament, hosted by UTA at Arlington Stadium last weekend.

But Texas and Oklahoma didn't reach the spotlight without any competition from the other two teams in the double-elimination lineup—Lamar and Miami.

Both the Cardinals and Hurricanes pulled some surprises, although both were eliminated by Sunday afternoon. Lamar, in the opening game, got burned by a ninth-inning rally by the No. 2 ranked Longhorns and lost a heartbreaker, 3-2.

Earlier in the day on Friday, the Miami Hurricanes had their pitching

corps, supposedly the strongest part of their No. 3 rated squad, burned by the hot Oklahoma bats, losing the tournament's first game, 11-3.

Displaying standout hurler Stan Jakubowski (9-4), coach Ron Fraser's Floridians got blasted for 13 hits, committed three errors and managed only three runs off Sooner hurler Ken Palmer, who went the entire nine innings for OU.

Palmer's only trouble came in the first inning when Miami quickly scored twice on a double and home run.

The Sooners, however, got on Jakubowski right from the beginning, as the veteran of four NCAA tournaments only lasted three innings, yielding six hits along the way.

After the game, the hard-throwing right hander flew back to his hometown of Union, New Jersey to get married Sunday to his high school sweetheart, all the while prepared to return to Arlington Sunday if the Hurricanes were in the tournament finals.

But Jakubowski had nothing to worry about. After downing the Cardinals 6-0 in

the second round action Saturday, the Longhorns put a stop to them Sunday afternoon with a 5-0 blanking.

"Pitching was supposed to be our strongest point," said Miami coach Fraser after the Sooner fiasco on Friday. "We just didn't get it today. We depended on Stan to hold us up and you saw what happened."

"We know we don't have a strong hitting ballclub and we know we have to get on base and run. We weren't even able to test OU's catcher today."

Hurling the baseball for the Southland Conference champions Lamar was junior Rick Nesloney, the winningest pitcher on the Cards' staff with a 8-1 season. He lasted all but the final two outs of the ballgame, when the Longhorns exploded two of their three runs.

With a four-hitter going, Nesloney then got racked for a pair of doubles and a pair of singles in the top of the ninth when Texas suddenly came alive.

"It's a shame Nesloney had to lose it," said Cardinal mentor Jim Gilligan. "I thought we played about as well as we're

capable of, but you have to give Texas credit. They came back and won it."

The Cards were finally eliminated from their first-ever post-season tournament Saturday afternoon when Miami's Gavin Long blanked the Cardinals for just four hits and no runs. Fraser pulled Long after the first six frames, saving him for later possible use, if needed.

Lamar's Paul Touchstone lasted through eight innings, giving up eight hits along the way, as the Hurricanes scored three runs in the third and two more in the fourth. They added one more on in the seventh.

"This is the type of game we must play if we're going to win," complimented Fraser. "Gavin did a super job for us and showed the class of a pitcher who is now 15-0."

Unfortunately, Miami's glory didn't last too long. Sunday afternoon, Miami was sent out of the tournament by the Longhorns, the team that sent Lamar back to Beaumont the day before.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY WAS THE first team bounced from last weekend's NCAA regional baseball tournament in Arlington, but Jim Gulligan's Redbirds made an impression before they left. Dallas Morning News staffer Tom Williams called LU's heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Texas the best played game in the three years the tournament has been played in Arlington ...

As we turn these pages and remember the games we played, let us not forget our coach and teammates who have gone before us—forever part of our team, our story, and our lives.

In Memoriam

Al Vincent	Dec 23, 1906 - Dec 14, 2000
Paul Touchstone	Sep 17, 1953 - Mar 22, 2014
Louie Jones	Aug 28, 1955 - Oct 22, 2018